

Green Schools

(Don't let it go reuse H₂O)

(Get recycling as fast as lightning)

(Flick that switch, you'll be rich)

Our school is in the process of applying for the Water Green Flag. This will be our third Green Flag ☺. The Green-Schools Programme is an award scheme that promotes and acknowledges long-term, whole school action for the environment. It also promotes a strong sense of teamwork among teachers, students and the wider community to reach common high level goal.

WHAT IS THE 'GREEN- FLAG'? The Green Flag is awarded to a school after it has completed a series of steps aimed at saving water.

WHO AWARDS IT? The flag will be awarded to the school by Laois County Council once they are satisfied that we have completed necessary steps.

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING? All classes have been learning about the water cycle. We have conducted surveys to see how much water is used in the school. Leaks and drips were identified and fixed. We have learned how to save water at home and in school. The water meter has been closely monitored. Various experiments have been carried out to highlight how we use water. Water saving devices were installed in the toilets. The "green button device" is saving litres of water every day. Classes have continued to separate waste and recycle. Energy inspectors carry out daily lunchtime inspections of classrooms ensuring that all electrical devices are turned off.

WHY ARE WE SAVING WATER?

Most of us are guilty to some extent for taking water for granted. Water comes out of our taps and it goes down the drain; in between we use it to brush our teeth or do the dishes. However, water is crucial aspect of our lives, not only for drinking and washing, but also for use in industry, agriculture and making almost any kind of product, from hamburgers and tin cans to newspaper and cars. Our demand for water has grown to the point that the natural water cycle can no longer keep up.

- 99% of the world's water cannot be used because it is either saline or is locked up in glaciers and ice sheets.
- Our own bodies are two thirds water and our brains are at least 85% water!!!
- A person uses about 149 litres of clean treated water per day in an average household.
- A person can survive a month without food, but only 5 or 6 without water.
- A tap dripping once a second wastes 45,000 litres of water a year that's the same as nearly 600 baths full of water!
- A hosepipe or sprinkler can use 1,000 litres [or 1 tonne] of water per hour. This is as much as a family of 4 would normally use in 2 days.
- Over 1 billion men, women and children do not have enough safe clean water to drink.

TIPS ON HOW TO SAVE WATER

- Water you plants with pre-used water.eg water used for washing veg.
- Use a water butt outside to collect rainwater for cisterns and plants.
- Don't run the tap while brushing your teeth.
- Check leaky taps and cisterns.
- Install "low flow" shower head and restrictors on your taps.
- Don't use the dish washer or washing machine unless they are full.
- Keep cool drinking water in a jug in the fridge to avoid running the tap to get a drink.
- Use displacement device on your cistern e.g. A filled plastic water bottle.
- Get out of the shower as soon as you're clean.
- Use unused pets water for your plants
- Learn how to turn off your water at the stopcock
- Don't fill the kettle unless you need to.
- Use a bucket to clean windows and cars
- Use a watering can when possible.

