

## Eco Group update for Spring Term Newsletter

Whilst the weather is wet & wild outside, the Eco Group have been making most of the time to plan and prepare for their activities in the terms ahead. That said, this term they have successfully led two events across the school working on the biodiversity strand of the Wildern school's Eco Schools Award accreditation for this year.

### World Land Trust buy an Acre of Rainforest Appeal

At the start of the year the Eco Group worked on a collaborative initiative with the Tiger Force student in a drive to purchase at least an acre of rainforest for its future protection. Students in both groups measured the size of the school field and then worked out what we would need to fundraise in order to purchase the equivalent sized area of rainforest. They then lead in awareness raising of the work of the World Land Trust with tutor materials and a Eco-Quiz to survey how Eco-friendly we are being in the school. Students held a non-uniform day which raised over £1000 for the rainforest purchase and the money for our school sponsorship of Baggy a tiger at Marwell Zoo.



### Great Big Schools Birdwatch Survey

Just before February half term break the Eco Group led Year 7 students in the timed observation of our birdlife in the school grounds, as part of the Great British Birdwatch Survey. The data collected was analysed by Lucy Burnett and entered into the National Survey. Our most populous bird is unsurprisingly - the black headed gull, followed by wood pigeon and carrion crow. We hope that our plans to plant a more diverse range of trees in the school grounds may encourage a wider diversity of bird life, as part of our Biodiversity theme within the Eco Schools award we are working towards this year.



### On the campaign front

In our weekly meetings the Eco Group are currently very busy working on their campaigns and plans for the coming year. The next big campaign is based around the Great Big School Spring Clean, with a drive to reduce litter around the school grounds and increase recycling on the school site. The group is holding a litter awareness week after the Easter holidays which includes the second community litter pick on Saturday April 30th. Later in June we are planning to hold a Marine Protection week, which will highlight the use of plastics and their impact on our marine environments. The Eco group has been busy writing to speakers and charities involved in this field to speak to our students in assemblies on why we should be concerned about these environments. Summer will prove to be a busy greener term here at Wildern!