Eco-Schools is an international award programme that guides schools on their sustainable journey, providing a framework to help embed these principles into the heart of school life.

Our mission as an ‘eco school’ is to help bring about behaviour change in young people and those connected to them so that good habits learned in our schools are followed through into homes and communities.

For over 5 years now we have worked together to create an ethos in which children, staff and parents are aware of our mission and work together towards the same eco goals. Our school eco team consists of pupils from key stage 2 who are committed  to helping the planet by spreading awareness of environmental issues and doing their best to lead change within the school, homes and local community. There are eco representatives in the early years and key stage 1 classes who are responsible for paper waste disposal.

The St Mary’s ECO warriors have got off to a great start this year! Led by Mrs Campbell, the team have been very busy helping their classmates and teachers take better care of our beautiful planet.

**WOW**

We are all now taking part in the WOW Walk to School Living Streets project. This encourages pupils to walk, or partly walk to school. Pupils record their method of transport daily and the more they walk, the more badges they collect! The website also helps us to analyse how we are getting along with walking more. We now also have bike and scooter racks in school to encourage pupils to cycle or scoot to school. Take a look at their website below:

<https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/products-and-services/projects/wow>

During Autumn term we will be going on a school trip to the recycling centre where we hope to bring back some useful tips and information about how we can recycle better.

**Switch off Fortnight**

In November we are also taking part in the Switch off Fortnight campaign where the focus is on energy. We have been trying to think of ways energy can be saved at home and at school.  As a result St Mary’s will be holding their first ever ‘No Power Hour’ each day during the fortnight.  During this time, classes will refrain from using any power – no lights, no interactive whiteboards and no computers.  Please keep your eye on our eco page to see what classes get up to!

Here are a picture of our first eco meeting of the year!

If you would like to try some environmental friendly activities at home, please have a look at the following websites:

[Quick and Easy Eco-Activities - Kids for Saving Earth](https://kidsforsavingearth.org/programs/eco/)

[Protecting the environment - BBC Bitesize - BBC](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zrsbn9q)

[Environment Primary Resources | National Geographic Kids](https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/teacher-category/environment/)