



# Our Eco-Schools work

At Heswall Primary, we appreciate that as educators of the future custodians of our planet, we have the responsibility to ensure that every child is intrigued and excited by the wonders of the natural world- whilst recognising that they have a vital role in protecting it. We also believe that this can only be achieved if we also develop conservation awareness amongst our wider community; our families, local community members, local businesses and educational providers. This allows all stakeholders to realise that by working together they can raise the profile of sustainability both locally and globally.

For the past three years, we have promoted science, conservation and sustainability throughout Wirral and the North West by running an annual large scale event - 'Wirral Science Under the Stars'. Hosted and organised by Heswall Primary, this event attracts over 1000 children, families, students, environmental professionals and businesses. Over 50 organisations from across the North West attend and hold stalls to promote science and conservation. Our unique outdoor 'Eco Alley' is filled with interactive stalls that encourage the local community to give careful thought to their impact on the Earth.

Every year a collaborative environmental film is shown.

This year's film, '**Extinction is Forever**', was intended to raise awareness of animal conservation issues. It was

written and created by Heswall Primary and filmed with five other Wirral schools. This formed the focal part of the night-

**please watch....** <https://vimeo.com/312747788> . It was shown on a giant screen in the middle of the playground during the night. They also wrote this song... <https://vimeo.com/313401870>





In the lead up to the film, our school was immersed in a series of lessons to raise awareness of endangered species. We even held a 'Dinosnores' sleepover to learn more about animals that had become endangered/extinct.



Across the school, children learnt songs and poetry about endangered species and produced art work inspired by Ralph Steadman. On the filming day, the whole school came dressed as extinct or endangered species. The costumes were amazing!



We even had an extinct/endangered animals cake competition!



## OUR SCHOOL TWINNING SCHEME: CONSERVING GORILLAS IN PARTNERSHIP

A key feature of our film celebrated our twinning partnership with Kisoro Demo Primary in Uganda. This partnership is facilitated by GAFI, the Great Ape Film Initiative, a charity who use environmental films to raise awareness of the plight of mountain gorillas, a highly endangered species in Uganda.

Heswall and Kisoro Demo have worked together to learn more about endangered animals in both countries, through exchanging letters and projects and watching films about gorillas on a pedal powered cinema. This scheme has proved so successful that, this year we have also encouraged 4 other local schools in our school cluster to take part. Together we have built water harvesting systems and planted trees in our twin schools, to create habitats for the gorillas. We hope to continue working alongside our twin school to protect the gorillas for many years to come.



## OCEAN BLUE.... our conservation journey continues....



The film, 'Extinction is Forever', really made the children think about the impact their day to day life had on the animals, particularly those in the ocean. During the summer term, they decided to develop another conservation initiative called 'Ocean Blue' - to help raise awareness of plastics in the oceans and the effect on sea creatures.

This project has, to date, has included; visits from Blue Planet Aquarium to inform the children about endangered sea creatures, visits from environmental author Sarah Roberts, to inform them about plastic waste, visits by Incredible Oceans and their life size orca.



In July, we held a plastic waste- plastic pledge market to raise awareness across the community of the impact of plastic waste on the creatures in the oceans.

We are incredibly proud of our conservation film work and have realised how film and collaborative projects can be used to disseminate powerful environmental messages to the local and global community.

#heswalloceanblue



A final message from our film....



If we don't do something about this now... what will be left for our children and our children's children?

Will they be able to see some of the wonders of nature, as we can now... or will they only be able to see pictures of the animals that roam our planet today, in a book?