



An All-through Co-operative School  
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Dear Families

I would like to welcome you back to our final term of this academic year. As the summer approaches, it seems appropriate to be writing to you about our climate and an immediate need for change. Preston Manor will be celebrating Earth Day on Wednesday 21st April and will also officially declare a Climate Emergency on this day.

*'It is widely agreed by climate scientists that if urgent action is not taken within the next decade to reduce emissions and limit global heating, the damage done to our climate and ecosystems will be irreversible. In Brent, the effects are likely to be most acutely felt through more intense heat waves, droughts, floods and biodiversity loss. International organisations and national governments are grappling with this crisis, but for any global targets to be made, change has to happen on the ground at the local level.'* [Brent Climate & Ecological Emergency Strategy 2021-2030](#)

As a community school we have a major role to play especially by leading by example and this is why we felt the need to declare a climate emergency to restate and reinforce our commitment to a focus on the environment and support the global effort in keeping to the 1.5 degrees of warming set out by the Paris Climate Agreement. Declaring a climate emergency will help to draw attention to the issue and bring about urgency in our attempts to tackle them.

This week we will focus on Climate Emergency Actions we can take and there will be some exciting activities for students to get involved. Some of these activities include: a writing competition (*poem or speech- 75 words to sum up the climate crisis*), an Art Competition (*create a piece of Art using recycled trash!*), a 'Collect and Measure' activity of the school's weekly rubbish and a tree planting ceremony of 13 trees on our celebration of Earth Day. All activities will be run by staff and some of our Eco-council members. We have assemblies throughout the week to inform the students about the issues around climate change and why this week of action is necessary.

As a school, we have demonstrated a commitment to prioritizing the environment, as demonstrated with the building of Preston Manor Primary School which achieved a BREEAM rating of Excellent in recognition of the building's high environmental performance. We will recommit to ensuring that any future decisions about the upgrading school facilities or buildings or new builds will keep the environment at the forefront. [Preston Manor's building design](#)

Preston Manor has worked to focus on recycling plastic waste produced by the school and the school community has embraced this as a whole. However, we want to renew our commitment to reducing the amount of plastic, specifically single use plastic, on the school site. To do this, we must initially focus on removing the sale of single use water bottles. This will entail working with catering suppliers to make sure the options available for students are still as *varied and in demand*, but exact a smaller price on the planet. It will also require building a new school culture promoting the use of reusable plastic bottles and investing in the infrastructure to make this work for the school community. [Reducing single-use plastics](#)

We will continue the school's commitment to promoting biodiversity on the school site through planting more bee corridors and working on the upkeep of the 'Rigby Reservoir' (wetland area near the P block). We have had a donation of 13 trees from Mr Graham who was a long serving former Assistant Headteacher with a keen interest in the environment. We will be planting them during our Earth Day celebration, as a symbolic gesture of our commitment to yearly planting of trees on the school's site.

We plan on exploring further commitments to work with our energy suppliers to see how we can reduce our carbon emissions ([Clean Energy Funding](#)), perhaps increasing our use of solar panels. Although we regularly advertise cycling to school to both staff and students, we need to explore how to increase the numbers of community members participating in this scheme. We must all commit to reducing carbon emissions from transport.

Finally, please join us in our commitment to addressing the Climate Emergency and discuss ideas with the family on how to make your own home more carbon neutral. Remember change starts at a local level and I hope you will encourage our students to get involved ensuring the safety of our future.

Yours sincerely



Beth Kobel  
Headteacher