

# Eco Rangers

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would just like to get in touch with a little more information on a new Eco-Ranger afterschool club which has started this term on **Tuesday and Thursday evenings. 3.30pm- 5.00pm, open to those from Reception to Year 6. The cost will be in line with other clubs at £6.15 per session.** Any profits made will be reinvested into the outdoor learning area. We currently have spaces particularly on a Thursday evening, this will be an outdoor club running in all weathers helping to look after and care for the gardens and wildlife within our school grounds.

Eco Rangers is part of a larger, exciting project happening within the whole school and we would love for the children, their carers and the wider community to be involved as much as possible.

Through the hard work of Lucy Willans and the Apple Tree Initiative, Appledore School is to be linked to the wider North Devon Biosphere as a micro-reserve.

## What does this mean?

We are one of only two schools to start the project and will hope to be a flagship for the micro-reserve concept to be rolled out to other schools. A micro-reserve is a mini nature reserve, where we (the school community) as rangers will be responsible for the management of the outside area, looking at other reserves within the biosphere and thinking about how we can look after the natural environment and sustainability of our area.

## What will Eco Rangers do?

Every child (and the adults too!) within the school will become a Ranger, whether they attend the club or not, we will be working in school time across the year groups to link outdoor curriculum learning with the micro-reserve concept- there are great opportunities to link a wide range of the science curriculum to our wonderful outdoor space.

The Eco Rangers afterschool club will focus on projects within the biosphere, taking ideas from the children, as well as local experts to manage and maintain our reserve, linking into projects already started, such as:

- **Growing in the gardens and Polytunnel.**
- **Looking after the pond**
- **Creating homes for wildlife.**
- **Investigating and monitoring wildlife within the reserve.**
- **Using resources from the reserve, this maybe through activities such as green woodworking, campfire cooking and traditional crafts.**
- **Looking at other reserves within the biosphere and extending our knowledge (we already have great links to Northam Burrows).**
- **Looking at biospheres across the world to compare and contrast our experiences.**
- **Developing our knowledge and interests by inviting in local experts and finding out what rangers do.**

## **Do you know anyone within the local community who maybe interested to get involved?**

As part of the project, we are keen to get as many of the local community involved as possible. If you know anyone that you think would be interested to help with the gardens, general maintenance of the woodland areas, helping the children create homes for wildlife, or has any knowledge/skills to share that would help us learn about our environment within the school grounds or wider biosphere, then we would love to hear from you. This doesn't have to be on a Tuesday and a Thursday!

Over the course of the next few months, we will be looking to start running events and activities to include the wider school family and community.

More information on the Apple Tree Initiative and all the projects that have happened so far can be found at [www.appletreeinitiative.co.uk](http://www.appletreeinitiative.co.uk)

More general information on the North Devon Biosphere can be found here [www.northdevonbiosphere.org.uk](http://www.northdevonbiosphere.org.uk)

### **Who is A Breath of Fresh Air – Wild Nurture CIC**



We are a small social enterprise (not for profit) whose aim is to promote outdoor learning for all. We are working in partnership with Appledore School using the amazing outdoor area as a base from which to establish a business. Although we will look for funding to run projects, our aim is to become a sustainably funded business model. We will help to manage and look after the micro-reserve whilst running activities to promote outdoor experiences – this maybe through activities and sessions such as toddler groups, delivering training courses, adult learning groups, other school groups etc. We are new to this site and area (we live locally at Bideford and have children at the school, having moved down from Worcestershire two years ago) but have a wealth of experience in Forest School, Outdoor Learning and Countryside Management.

Our website explains a bit more about what we do and deliver across North Devon [www.abreathoffreshair.education](http://www.abreathoffreshair.education)

Please feel free to email me [sarah.tawse@appledoreprimary.co.uk](mailto:sarah.tawse@appledoreprimary.co.uk) if you would be interested in getting involved in the micro-reserve project or have any further questions.