



Energy Sparks

Newsletter 3 – 31 October 2017

Well done to Pensford Primary School who are leading the Energy Sparks Scoreboard! Pensford Primary School are using Class Dojo to reward classes when they remember to turn off electrical items at lunchtime. They will give certificates to the classes with the most points at the end of term. You can find out more on their website at:

<http://www.pensford.bathnes.sch.uk/Eco-Team/>

Freshford C of E Primary, Saltford C of E Primary and Stanton Drew Primary Schools have all set up new Eco, Green or Energy teams to lead the Energy Sparks project at their schools, and have started recording activities on the Energy Sparks website.

More Energy Sparks Activities to try at your school

Many new Energy Teams are enthusiastically patrolling their schools turning off electrical switches. Use the following labelling approach to make sure they are not turning off vital equipment, and to help them make quick decisions as to what they can turn off. Remember you can record this as an Energy Sparks activity and earn points to move higher up the scoreboard.

Lights and appliances are labelled to show which should be left on or turned off

(http://www.energysparks.uk/activity_types/11)

Labelling Appliances and IT equipment

With your Energy Team, identify all IT equipment and appliances throughout the school. Use coloured sticker dots to mark up the on/off switches or power sockets supplying each appliance using a traffic light coding system:

- **Green** indicates equipment which can be switched off by pupils when not in use (for example, PCs, projectors and interactive whiteboards).
- **Amber** highlights equipment which should be switched off after checking with a member of staff that no-one is using it (for example, the main office computers or photocopier).
- **Red** indicates equipment which should not be switched off (for example a server or a fridge).

Did you know?

A single computer and monitor left on 24 hours a day will cost around £60 a year. Switching them off out of hours and enabling standby features could reduce this to less than £10 a year each and prolong the lifespan of equipment.

Labelling lights

Did you know? Making good use of daylight in a classroom can reduce lighting costs by 19%.

In many schools, classrooms can have excessive lighting installed. This is often arranged so that individual rows of light fittings can be switched separately.

Follow the steps below to identify those rows which do not need to be switched on under normal daylight:

1. With your Energy Team, identify which rooms in the school have multiple light switches which allow rows or groups of fittings to be controlled independently.
2. Choose a day with average levels of daylight (i.e. overcast day/not too sunny) and carry out the following procedures in each room.
3. Switch off all the lights and then, starting furthest from the window, switch each row back on one at a time. Each time consider whether there is an adequate amount of light to work

effectively at desk level. (Note: in some classrooms, it is lighting installed close and adjacent to an internal wall that is best left off).

4. When you feel there is an acceptable amount of light in the room, stop switching.
5. In consultation with the class teachers in these rooms, discuss your findings and get their agreement as to which rows of lights could normally be left switched off. If teachers are uncertain about progressing this, try switching off one set of lights nearer the window and see if the pupils notice in the next class.
6. Once identified, mark up the respective switches with **red stickers** in order to indicate to the staff and pupils that these marked switches are not to be used unless necessary (i.e. at night, on a very overcast day, or if a pupil needs more lights on).
7. You could also use **green stickers** for lights/switches that should be used as needed.

Thermometers are put in each classroom to monitor room temperature

(http://www.energysparks.uk/activity_types/13) and

Pupils carry out a spot check of classroom temperatures

(http://www.energysparks.uk/activity_types/45)

Now most schools are switching their heating on for the winter, put thermometers in each classroom and nominate class energy monitors or your Energy Team to check the temperature remains just right throughout the school day! You can download a classroom temperature monitoring sheet from the Energy Sparks site. Energy Sparks have free thermometers for schools taking part in the project. Please contact us on hello@energysparks.uk to request some.

The best temperatures for schools are:

- Normal classrooms: 18°C
- Corridors: 15°C
- Areas with high levels of activity (e.g. sports halls): 15°C
- Special needs schools or areas with very young children: 21°C

Getting the temperature right in the classroom is important; too hot and everyone falls asleep and doesn't learn, too cold and we shiver, and must put extra jumpers on. A hot classroom is also expensive as more heating is needed, and heating costs money. The temperature in a classroom is normally controlled by a thermostat on the wall where you can set the temperature of the classroom, or by thermostatic radiator valves which are connected to each radiator. If your school is too hot or too cold, adjust the temperature on your thermostats. Identify any broken thermostats and ask your caretaker to fix these.

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