Sustainability at Benson CofE Primary

2025/26

Sustainability – September 2025

- Priorities for this year 2025/26
  - Sustainability Lead
  - Links with ODST network and feeding back about progress at Benson
  - Raise the profile, discussed at September INSET
  - Links to the curriculum – accessible for all children
  - Curriculum mapping – Science and Geography
  - Eco Council
  - Recognise what we already do…..

What are we already doing?

- Nature Park – mapping school site, whole school designs, building and planting area, ongoing development and maintenance
- Bikeability
- Recycling bins
- Forest School (nursery)
- 2nd Hand Uniform sales
- World Book Day swaps
- Litter picks
- Links with community (eg Benson Nature Group)
- Local initiatives, eg Water in our World, trout release

What are we already doing?

- **Strengths**
  - Science and Geography closely linked.
  - Beginning to link sustainability across other subjects, eg trout release (Y4/5 science), weather observations (Y1/2), temperature monitoring (Y6), weekly review of our planet news (some classes)
  - PSHCE links to the environment and recycling
  - Outdoor learning wherever possible across the curriculum
  - Nature area development
  - Children are enthusiastic!

- **What could we do more / improve?**
  - Eco Council
  - Whole school initiatives, eg World Oceans Day
  - Use of resources in Geography to strengthen links to sustainability in a practical / relevant way
  - RE links to world views

Eco Council – October 2025

- Each KS2 class appointed an Eco Rep to help take care of all things linked to sustainability at Benson.











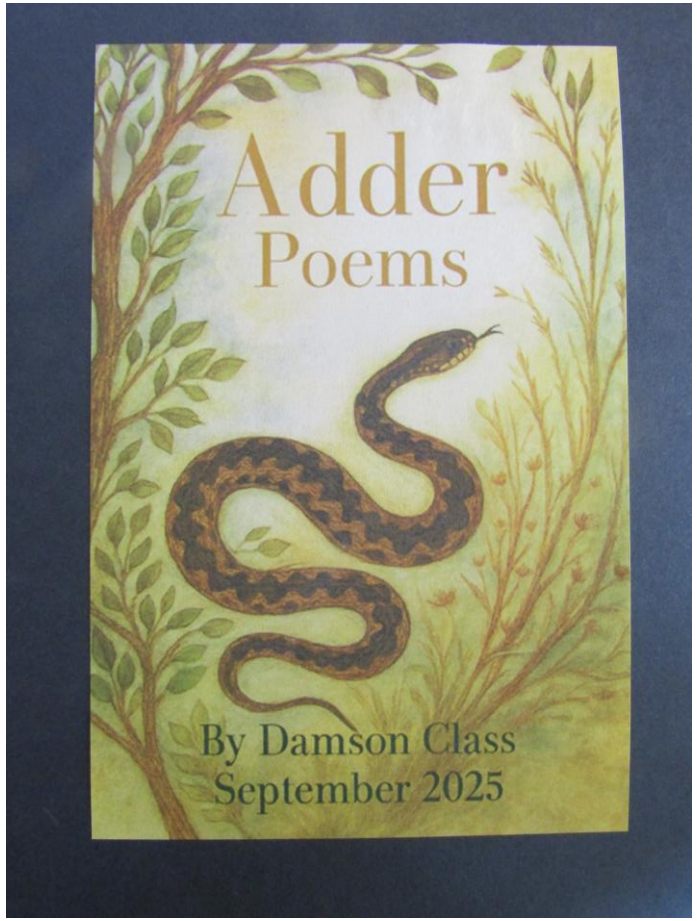


Tidy up – October 2025

Our newly appointed Eco Council helped Benson Nature Group tidy up our Nature Area.

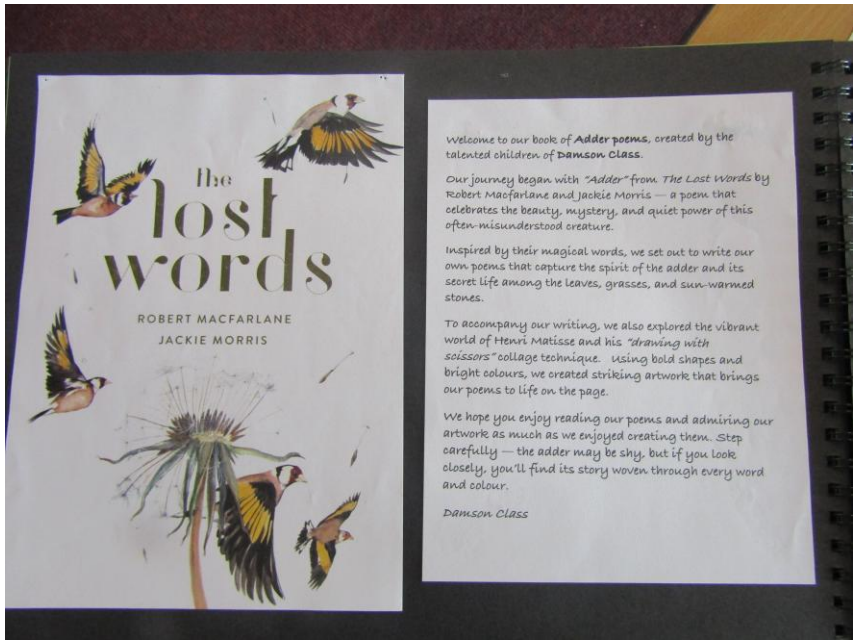
Curriculum Links - Y3/4 English – October 2025

- Years 3 and 4 wrote their own adder poems inspired by the book ‘The Lost Words’ together with artwork inspired Henri Matisse.
- They then read the story ‘Dinosaurs and All that Rubbish’ and retold the story in their own writing. They spent a lot of time thinking about pollution and the effect it can have on the planet as well as ways in which we can do more to help look after our environment.









Welcome to our book of **Adder poems**, created by the talented children of **Damson Class**.

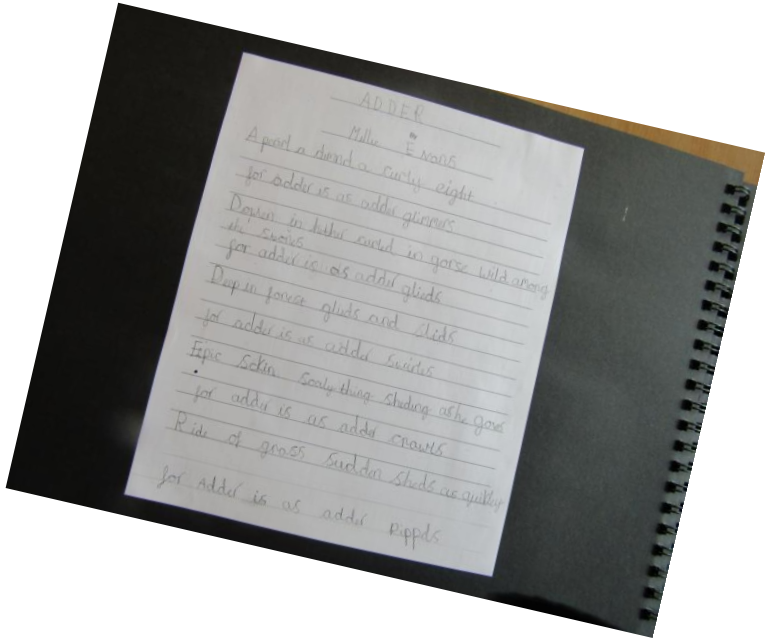
Our journey began with *"Adder"* from *The Lost Words* by Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris — a poem that celebrates the beauty, mystery, and quiet power of this often misunderstood creature.

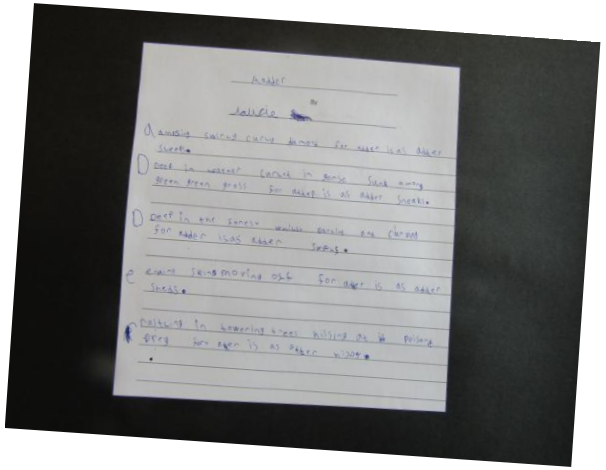
Inspired by their magical words, we set out to write our own poems that capture the spirit of the adder and its secret life among the leaves, grasses, and sun-warmed stones.

To accompany our writing, we also explored the vibrant world of Henri Matisse and his *"drawing with scissors"* collage technique. Using bold shapes and bright colours, we created striking artwork that brings our poems to life on the page.

We hope you enjoy reading our poems and admiring our artwork as much as we enjoyed creating them. Step carefully — the adder may be shy, but if you look closely, you'll find its story woven through every word and colour.

Damson Class





Young Climate Warriors

- On 17th November we welcomed Georgia into school for our Young Climate Warriors assembly. The children were really engaged and enjoyed the video and the information shared - it has really boosted their knowledge and confidence around the subject of both climate change and sustainability and they now have an understanding of how little actions can make a big difference.
- Quotes:
- I didn't know about the carbon cycle but now I do (Dylan)
- It persuades us to do a little thing to look after our planet (Eva)



Tree Plant – November 2025

- Benson Nature Group organised a tree plant at our remote field. The Woodland Trust donated 420 trees which we planted around the perimeter of our school field. Over 80 people from the school and local community turned up to help!
- We planted a mix of trees to create a sound / pollution barrier, encourage wildlife and to create pleasant area to look at. The corner of the field will become a small copse area as the trees grow.

Previous attachment

HELP PLANT TREES FOR BENSON!



Join us from 10am on Sunday 23rd November

LOCATION: Benson Primary School Sports Field
China Piece, Hopefield Grange, Benson

All welcome! Drop in for 20 min or stay the whole morning!

Bring if you can: Spade, gloves & wear wellies or sturdy shoes.

Benson Area Nature Group
Restoring our nature
























EVEREST







Bulbs – November 2025

- In November, the whole school took part in a bulb plant! With funds kindly donated by David Wilson Homes, we were able to purchase enough bulbs to allow all children to plant a bulb in the area by the car park. Hopefully, in the spring, the whole area will look amazing! Thank you for Tracey Comber for her help with the planting.





Antarctica Assembly – December 2025

- Apple, Damson and Cherry classes took part in a special live assembly. It was the first ever live stream from Union Glacier in Antarctica with over 1 million children from all over the world taking part. We were very lucky to hear from Robert Swan OBE (the first person to walk to both the North and South Poles) and his teddy, who joined him on both expeditions!







Trout - January 2026

The Chalk River Learning Trust introduced Y3/4 to our trout! Apple, Cherry and Damson classes will be looking after them until we release them into the stream later in the term.

We learnt some interesting facts about the chalk streams near Benson and how Ewelme is the the Chilterns but Benson is not!










Then in March we went to the stream to release the fish. We also investigated their habitat and discovered lots of other wildlife.



We completed our Carbon Audit and used this to inform our Climate Action Plan for the forthcoming year.

One of our objectives is to focus on Recycling and as part of this we launched our Bin to Brilliant competition.

In February 26, we put together an Action Plan for Benson based on ODST overarching climate strategy.
Key actions:

Benson's Action Plan...

Power down

Food waste and plant-based eating

Uniform exchange

Recycling

Nature Park, biodiversity and outdoor spaces

Sustainability awards

Curriculum audit / staff confidence

Green Careers

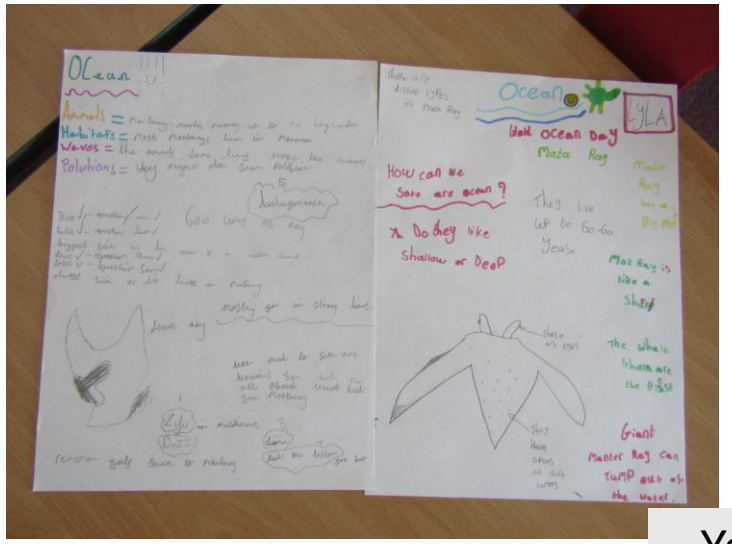
ODST aims....

Climate education: preparing pupils for a world impacted by climate change through learning and practical experience

Net zero: reducing emissions from education buildings and providing opportunities for pupils to get involved in the transition to net zero

Resilience: adapting school buildings and systems to prepare for the effects of climate change

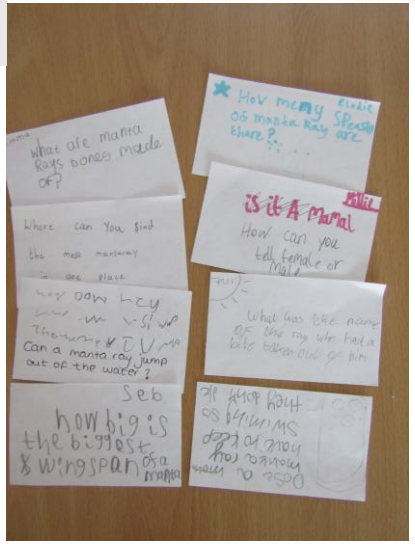
A better environment for future generations: enhancing biodiversity, improving air quality and increasing access to nature in and around schools





Year 3 and 4 joined a live lesson about Manta-ray and their habitats.





From Bin to Brilliant!





In June, we had our whole school competition Bin to Brilliant. We asked everyone to create an invention using recycling rubbish to solve an eco-problem or help the environment.

We had some amazing entries ranging from robots to bins, to bird feeders and even a hydraulic lift!

We had over 50 entries which was amazing. Our next steps are to capitalise on this and get increased focus around school on recycling and the issues all the inventions addressed.





KS1 winner
Amelia
Wind turbine



KS1 runner up
Cleo
Hedgehog house

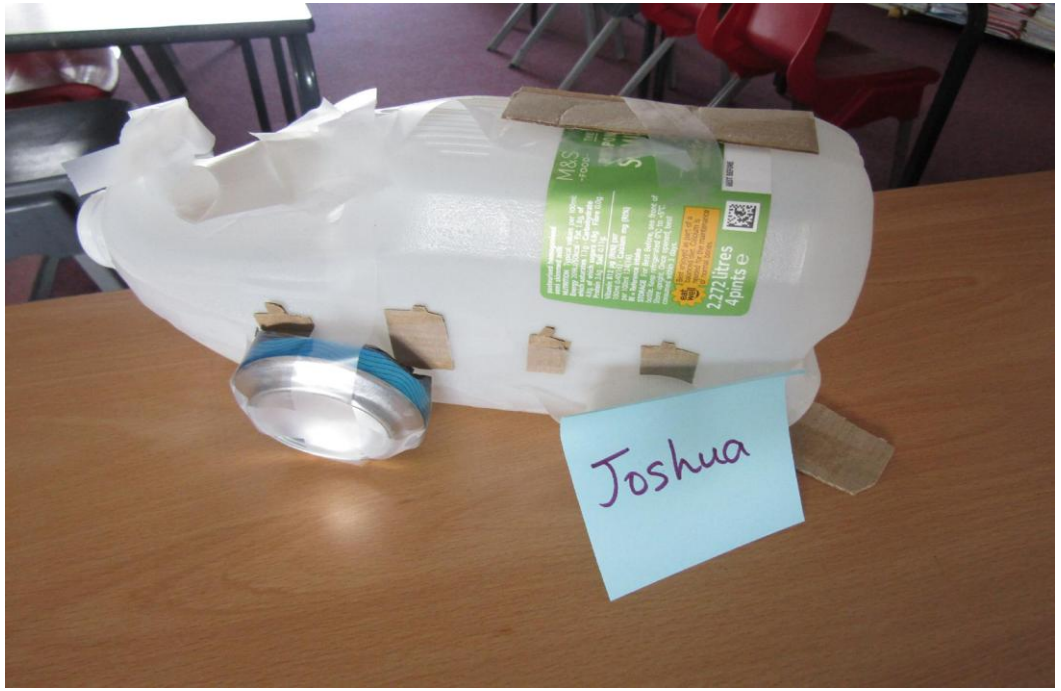


KS1 most creative
Jacob
Recycling bin



KS1 best use of rubbish
Theo and Lily
Rubbish robot and bug house





KS1 winner
Joshua
A car powered by rubbish to generate electricity. Equipped with a solar panel!

KS2 runner up
Luna
A blanket made from other materials thrown away



KS2 best use of rubbish
Millie and Finley
Bug house





KS2 most creative
Maxime
Lift

Year 5/6 Highlights.....

- Up cycling DT teddy project
- Geography trip into the village for local survey - looking at sustainability and supporting the environment.
- Hope in Benson project (planting sunflower seeds).
- DT cooking with only seasonal foods
- Small group gardening intervention





