



CHILTON FOLIAT CE VA PRIMARY SCHOOL

My World, Your World, Our World One World

Thursday 4th July 2024



Theme for the Day: **River Day**

The theme for the fourth day of our One World Week is inspired by our core Christian vision providing the solid foundation for our **One World** curriculum development. The River Kennet, the river upon whose banks we sit, provides the symbolic vehicle for our children as they journey and progress through school. Our school Christian values, **thankfulness, courage** and **love** will continue to lead us on the journey. The importance of water remains a focus point; it is one of the world's most precious resources which needs to be shared more equitably. Our bible story, The Woman at the Well, will come to life as we follow the river, with Jesus by our side, knowing we will never be thirsty in our spiritual lives.

1

With thankfulness, courage and love, we strive to improve heart and mind

Jesus said, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst". John 4:13



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To bring the concept of our river journey to life, the whole school went on a field trip to a very special part of the River Kennet, with thanks to Chilton Estates. Once there, educators from the charity, Action for River Kennet (ARK) delivered river bank and in river based activities opening up a whole new world of learning for the children about the variety of wildlife, different river habitats, food chains and much more.





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1 - Action for River Kennet. Champions and campaigners for this special river.

07:11

◀ WhatsApp



ARK - Action for the River
Kennet

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River School with the whole of Chilton Foliat Primary School today.

Our Senior Project Offer Anna and River School Officer Emily, with 2 of our trained River School volunteers and our 2 St John's work experience girls ran an all day workshop for the 89 children, who got to have fun and find lots of invertebrates in the Kennet, cross lots of bridges and go on a riverbank walk, smell watermint, watch trout, moorhen, mallards, scarlet tiger moths and banded and beautiful demoiselles. They met Sam the River Keeper, who showed them the trout in his stretch of the river and the invasive non-native American signal crayfish. Lots of great questions from the students today, who we hope now feel even more passionate about their chalk stream.

A big thank you to Chilton Estate for hosting us today and Sam for his time.



Write a comment...



+5



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2 - Look what we have found!



3 - Did you know...?

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4 - On closer inspection.



5 - Getting in the river to take a closer look.

Back at school, the children continued with their River Day discussing their concerns for the protection of all our rivers, waterways and seas. Our younger children made models of the River Kennet and carried out scientific experiments, making dirty water "clean" by filtering using different materials. Others created posters and wrote letters which we are going to send to those in charge of looking after our precious river, Thames Water. We can't wait for their response!

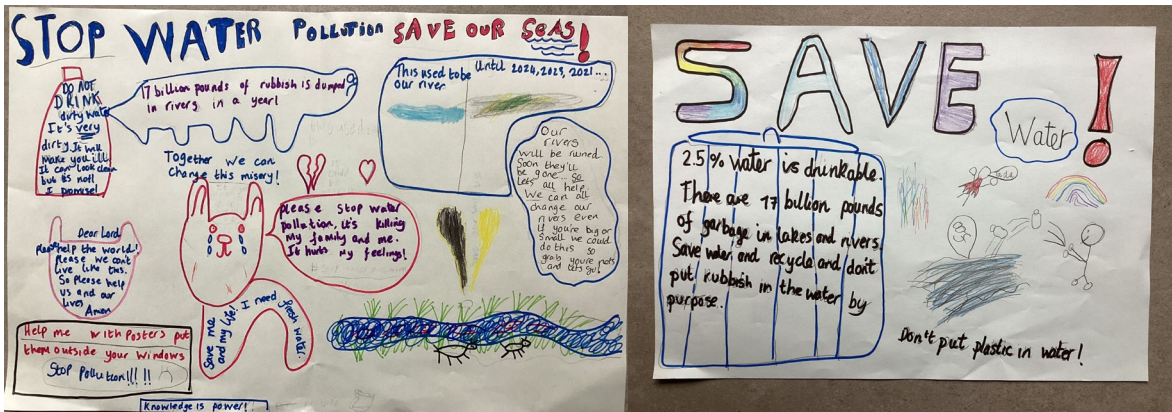
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Letter A



Headteacher:
Mrs Katie Turner

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Church of England, Voluntary Aided
Stag Hill, Chilton Foliat, Hungerford RG17 0TF
Telephone: 01488 682630
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July 2024

A joint communication to:

Chris Weston – CEO, Thames Water

Tim Beech – the Kennet Catchment Co-ordinator, Thames Water

Yvette de Garis – Head of Environment Engagement, Thames Water

Dear Mr Weston, Mr Beech and Ms de Garis

Please can your company stop pumping sewage into our beautiful River Kennet. On a recent local field trip, we experienced being in a healthy part of the River Kennet and have been lucky to see some of the creatures that live there.

We have learnt that the microorganisms are being harmed by the sewage that has leaked out from the sewage treatment plant in Chilton Foliat village and cascaded into our river. This process has a knock-on effect on the ecosystem because after the microorganisms eat the sewage, they then die which means the fish don't have enough food to live on.

During the trip to the River Kennet our knowledge has expanded rapidly by experiencing what a healthy river looks and feels like. We have found out that many invertebrates rely on our local chalk stream river to survive. Many animals take refuge in our chalk stream such as trout and heron, they feed off the microorganisms.

Therefore, why are you not taking any form of action to stop polluting our extraordinary local chalk stream, the River Kennet? In the future how are you going to tackle this problem to prevent further contamination? We think you want to see the same improvements happen, otherwise, why are you doing the jobs that you are doing?

We look forward to hearing from you with your solutions.

Yours sincerely

Seth and Alice – Year 6



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Letter B



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Dear Mr Weston, Mr Beech and Ms de Garis

At Chilton Foliat Primary School we have many concerns about the pollution of the River Kennet. We are writing to inform you that the pollution will have a huge impact on our drinking water and animals in the River Kennet.

Earlier this month, our class took a school trip to the River Kennet and learned about all the fantastic creatures that live in this river. The animals need clear clean water to live and if they can't live then we will not have any fish to eat. Not only that, but if the fish eat the plastic in the river and get caught then we eat the plastic in the fish. We learned that a town in Devon couldn't drink the water out of their taps because of how polluted it was.

We would like to know why your company is destroying the habitats of our animals. Your job is important to the whole of the ecosystem and if you don't make a difference by the end of 2024 the consequences will affect you and your company, and we will have to take the matters further.

If you agree to help us, then tell us what you will do to help. We want to keep the River Kennet clean, as it is one of the largest chalk rivers in England. Because of this river's beauty, and importance to all creatures, we want to keep it as clean as possible and I hope you do as well. We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Fred and Huw – Year 5

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Letter C



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Dear Mr Weston, Mr Beech and Ms de Garis

I may be young, but I would like you to STOP your company from dumping toxic sewage into our river, especially, the River Kennet. The River Kennet is a rare chalk river and is home to many animals as well as plants.

Last year 3.6 million hours of pumped sewage was put into many rivers. This is not right and we need to you stand up for us and stop this from happening in the future.

One of the unpleasant impacts is we use to have beavers and otters living in our river habitats, but they have almost disappeared because of sewage in the river and the pollution.

If you have a dog, would you let it go into a dirty river? If they did, they might get a kidney disease! Also, if you like eating fish for dinner, do you want to eat a polluted fish. I don't think you would!

We need to know what you are planning to do to save all our rivers but especially, our River Kennet which we know is so precious. Please write back soon.

Yours sincerely
Catherine – Year 3



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Letter D



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Dear Mr Weston, Mr Beech and Ms de Garis

The River Kennet is very precious and it is being treated very badly. Do you know what is happening? We know that sewage has been let into the river and it is damaging it. We are very lucky to be able to see our river every day on our way to school and the way it is being treated is unacceptable. Everybody in Muntjac Class is angry that nobody is sorting out the problem. The raw sewage is killing our environment and polluting our delicate River Kennet system.

We went on a field trip to our river and we were lucky to see the river looking so beautiful. We have seen pictures of when it does not look so beautiful, it looks dirty because of the sewage. The sewage is dangerous as it kills lots of animals and plants and this is not good.

Please write back to Muntjac Class to tell us what you are going to do about the problem.

Yours sincerely

Tom – Year 3



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6 - Finally, it was Election Day and citizens of the United Kingdom used their democratic right to vote. As part of our River Day at school, we also used our democratic privilege to vote on issues that matter to us and connected to our river theme.

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