**TSN Eco-Box**

The Eco-Box is a very comprehensive resource which can be used at several levels. The contents are cross-curricular and its uses in school are many and varied. The TSN website also offers guidance and plenty of links to further activities. These activities not only form part of class lessons, but can provide a basis for assemblies and offer home learning opportunities. We also made use of it while fulfilling the necessary requirements on our way to achieving Eco-school status. The travel survey, for example, was particularly helpful here.

I used the kit in science lessons with Year 5 and Year 6 children and our use focused on two main themes – energy use and food miles. I arranged our loan to fit in with the Energy Month and Switch-Off Fortnight initiatives organised by The Pod and the children were able to consider the energy use of different appliances at home and at school. The biggest surprise was how much energy was still being used while items were left on standby! We then also had evidence for introducing new ways of working as part of our Eco schools programme. The food miles activity was used as part of a Healthy Living unit of work. It really made the children think about the implications of eating foods from all over the world, and how demanding we have become. This called on their maths and geography skills as well. The prices for the items do need updating from the guidance notes.

I would really like to make more extensive use of this resource and encourage its wider use amongst my colleagues but finding curriculum time has been difficult. Some of the activities could be modified for younger children, and there would be plenty of opportunities for KS3 and KS4 as well that we haven’t explored. It lends itself beautifully to a whole-school day, or week on sustainability and climate change.

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