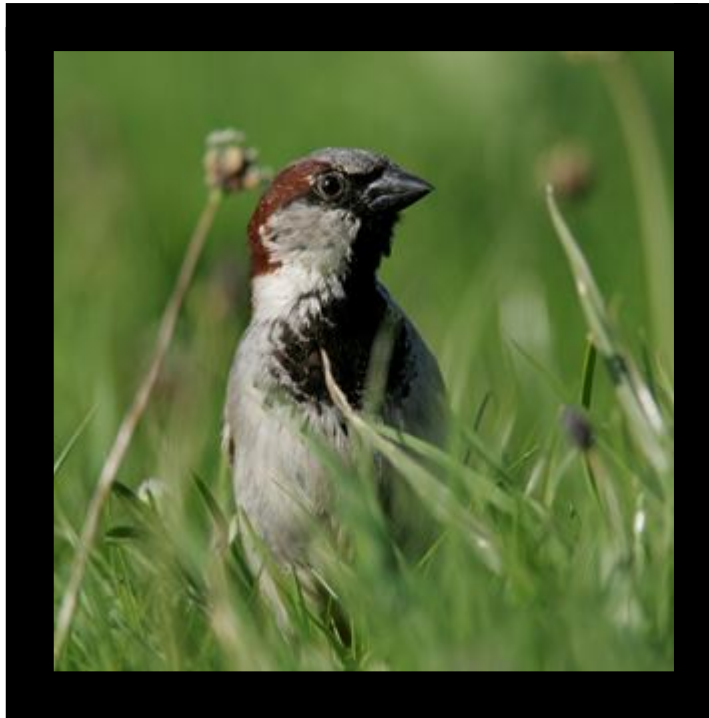


Spring is here! Eco Blog 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023



## Birdsong!

The sound of chirruping spring birds and the evening light is a reminder to me that Spring is well and truly here. Every year, at roughly the same time, I realise that I cannot identify the bird song of Brighton. I have decided that as a family and with my class we are going to try and learn some of the local birdsong.

This brings me to the RSBP website: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/bird-songs/what-bird-is-that/>

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This is a free resource and really quite fun. So, if like me, you find listening to bird song relaxing, why not have a go? You could challenge yourself to then go and identify birdsong in your local area. Children love this challenge, even if we can't agree on which bird we are identifying!

### COMPOST

Compost We do have a brown composting bin set up outside of the KS1 entrance to school, thank you to those people that have been using it. Please remember that citric fruit (e.g. oranges and lemons) should not be put in because their acidity stops decomposition.

### HOUSEHOLD CLEANING WITHOUT CHEMICALS

Now to the serious stuff! My love of vinegar...

Since having my own children and becoming more Eco aware, I have tried to move away from the use of chemicals in cleaning products. Not only are they toxic and damaging our seas and waterways, but they are also linked to weakened immune systems and allergies. Not to mention the fact that cleaning products are expensive. Even though I was brought up believing a splash of bleach was the only way to clean a toilet, I have broken free and ditched the bleach! It is liberating, give it a go!

With only three vital cleaning products required you can tackle most household jobs!

- Baking soda (bicarbonate of soda)
  - Distilled white vinegar.
  - Lemons

<https://www.thespruce.com/homemade-and-natural-cleaning-products-1900456#:~:text=Baking%20soda%20and%20vinegar%20are%20often%20used%20together,of%20baking%20soda%20with%20the%20laundry%20detergent.%20>

Have a look at this website for top cleaning tips.

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**Our City our World Project**

The next steps:

**We will have our first meeting in the summer term! Thanks to anyone that has contacted me, I will be sure to keep in touch!**

This year we are putting together a strategy group to put our Eco Vision into action. We are looking for parent volunteers who are interested in helping to make Elm Grove a more sustainable school. Please contact me on [SarahThwaites-Hutchinson@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:SarahThwaites-Hutchinson@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk) if you would like to find out any further information or would like to volunteer.

Thanks for reading,

Sarah Hutchinson  
Eco- coordinator