



Dear _____

I am writing to you concerning participation in Eco-Schools England and Keep Britain Tidy's newest environmental educational programme Learning About Forests (LEAF).

England's landscape has one of the lowest proportions of woodland in Europe, just 10% of our country is covered in trees! As a comparison Finland has 73% coverage and France, one of our closest neighbours, 31%. The LEAF programme aims to, over time, increase England's percentage through creating an appreciation of trees and forest-based ecosystems amongst future generations of environmentalists and decision-makers. I would like to encourage you to register for and participate in the LEAF programme, using your position as an educator to have a lasting and positive impact on the planet we inhabit.

The LEAF programme is entirely free from registration to achieving internationally-recognised LEAF accreditation. Like Eco-Schools, the LEAF programme is flexible, manageable, impactful, accessible and designed to be pupil-led. Young people first select a LEAF theme from: Climate, Biodiversity, Restoration, Water, Community or Production. They will then use this theme to work through the LEAF Forest Cycle placing them in control of raising awareness, planning projects, involving others and celebrating their successes. This approach enables young people to reconnect with, understand, appreciate and actively protect their natural surroundings, wherever they are urban, rural, woodland or playground.

Whilst the LEAF programme is new to England, globally it has been successfully delivered for over 20 years in nearly 30 countries - it has a rich history of helping young people connect with the natural world on their doorstep. To date over 84,000 trees have been planted as part of the LEAF programme!

Through the Eco-Schools website (<https://www.eco-schools.org.uk/>) you can register for the Learning About Forests programme and apply for LEAF accreditation each academic year in June or July. You can also download the free LEAF programme guide, which has been created by qualified teachers and contains all the information you need to seamlessly work through the LEAF Forest Cycle and develop an appreciation of trees and forest eco-systems amongst the young people you teach.

I hope you will take this opportunity to help the young people you teach reconnect with nature!

Many Thanks,
