Waterside Making a Difference

Eat, Sleep, Go Green, Repeat!

October 19th-23rd, 2026

MAD week 2026

Infant, Junior and Secondary Schools across the Waterside have been taking part in the first annual Making a Difference week. MAD week has been developed by the Waterside Climate Ambassadors with support from Boost Totton and Eling to get children across our local area working together and learning about climate change. MAD week is all about raising visibility, learning about community actions, connecting sustainability to the curriculum, launching school site greening schemes, and giving schools a chance to feel part of a connected community effort to work on climate change.







Take MAD Week Home and Together We Can Make a Difference!

Try out these ideas to Make a Difference and support more sustainability at home.

1 Sustainable swaps



- Try the cleaning and laundry product refill section at Sunnyfields farm in Totton
- Swap your beef mince for Quorn or soya mince (it's cheaper, healthier and most people can't tell the difference)
- Try a food box from Hampshire Market Garden CIC
- Buy some living compost for your garden from New Forest Aquaponics CIC

2 Learning little and often



- Download the free Fork Ranger app and use a fun daily quiz to learn about sustainable food choices and get a recipe every day
- Listen to the Home Grown podcast to learn tips for growing your own
- Read one of the books published by the Green Stories Project and imagine new resilient futures
- Follow positive climate news @itsthegarbagequeen @sambentley sustainability tips @sustainableish and growing advice @shegrowsveg @charlesdowding

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3 Half term activity ideas



- Visit **Sunnyfields farm** to see the amazing David Attenborough pumpkin artwork. You can also explore the organic farm shop and cleaning product refill station and see what simple swaps you could try.
- **Get active** - active travel is so good for us and we're lucky to have so many beautiful spaces in our town and on our doorstep. Walk part of the Totton Green Route you've not explored, or see if you can cycle to the New Forest directly from your house (there are several easy links from Totton).
- **Grow Garlic and other vegetables that rise from the 'dead'** - a gardening project with a Halloween twist. Did you know that lettuce, carrots, and spring onions can all easily be re-grown from scraps just in water on your windowsill? Garlic is also a perfect growing project for Autumn. One clove = one little bulb that will become a new complete garlic bulb ready to harvest in summer. Plant straight in the garden or start it off in some water inside to marvel at (you can also eat the garlic shoots).
- **Do a charity shop raid for Halloween costumes** - one thing we have an abundance of in Totton is charity shops and they are great for finding materials for some cheap, creative and unique Halloween costumes (look here to spark ideas).
- **Try out a plant-based or low-footprint recipe.** There are so many great recipes out there that still feel like the treat foods we know and love. Chocolate Covered Katie's sugar-free deep filled cookie pie is made mostly from chickpeas and dates and it will blow you away. Ottolenghi, Thee Burger Dude and Soph's Plant Kitchen all have some fantastic recipes to explore, and Quorn has a list of Halloween food ideas perfect for parties.

4 Come to Boost's next family friendly event

Totton Goes MAD
Wednesday 2nd December, St Wins Church. 5.30pm - 7pm

Find out about the local climate action projects going on in and around Totton and Eling. With special performance and creative activities by Ri Baroche, creator of the comedy musical Call Me, Mother Nature.
Free to attend.



View Eventbrite

Waterside Making a Difference

2026 Poster Competition Overall Winner

Congratulations to Adelle S. from Testwood School who was the overall winner of our poster competition out of all entries. This poster is rich with artwork that has helped us to promote our first ever MAD week.



Making a Difference artwork exhibition

All of the runner up and winning entries from all three age categories can be viewed as part of a MAD week celebration exhibition displayed at Totton Railway Station waiting room from November until April.