

## Press Release

### **First school receives silver for going green**

25 July 2011



*David Harrison, SBW's Regulation Co-ordinator and 'Otto the Otter' congratulate school council members on their Eco-Schools award watched by (left) Clare Hewitt, Headteacher, and Rachael Hampshire, Assistant Headteacher.*

***Going green has earned Sixpenny Handley First School silver from an international awards scheme.***

***The North Dorset school has received a silver certificate from the Eco-Schools programme after pupils successfully took part in a number of environmental activities.***

***They included measures to conserve energy and water with the school's local water company offering particular advice and help.***

***Pupils took part in interactive sessions arranged by Sembcorp Bournemouth Water (SBW) as part of its Waterwise school education programme.***

***Delivered by a qualified teacher, with the help of 'Otto the Otter', the sessions are designed to teach children about water efficiency and the water environment.***

***They also help schools deliver their own targets, including a reduction in water use.***

***Roger Harrington, SBW's Managing Director, described Sixpenny Handley First School's silver certificate as "fantastic news."***

***He added: "I am extremely pleased for the school and congratulate the staff and pupils who have obviously put a great deal of effort into understanding the environmental impact of their activities.***

***"Today's young people will have an especially important role in the future in helping to minimise the impact of human activity and in particular water use."***

***Eco-Schools is an international award programme operated in 46 countries around the world.***

***It helps schools to become sustainable by providing a framework to embed key principles into the heart of school life. More than 15,900 schools are registered with Eco-Schools in the UK with 4,660 achieving the silver award.***

***Clare Hewitt, Headteacher of Sixpenny Handley First School, said: "The children have worked really hard to achieve the Silver Award and have enjoyed taking part in many activities.***

***"This is so important in today's climate and they are ensuring all members of the school community save water, energy and re-cycle regularly. We have lots more exciting plans ahead and are aiming for the Green Flag status."***