

Switch-Off Fortnight

19 November – 2 December 2012

How you can join in:

Cherwell School and our partner primary schools invite you to join us in saving energy during Switch-Off Fortnight. With help from our friends at Low Carbon Oxford North, we have put together this list of ten straightforward ways of cutting your fuel bills in the home, while your children are helping us save energy at school.

1. Turn your thermostat down.

Reducing your room temperature by 1°C could cut your heating bills by up to 10 per cent and typically saves around £60 per year. If you have a programmer, set your heating and hot water to come on only when required rather than all the time.

2. Is your water too hot?

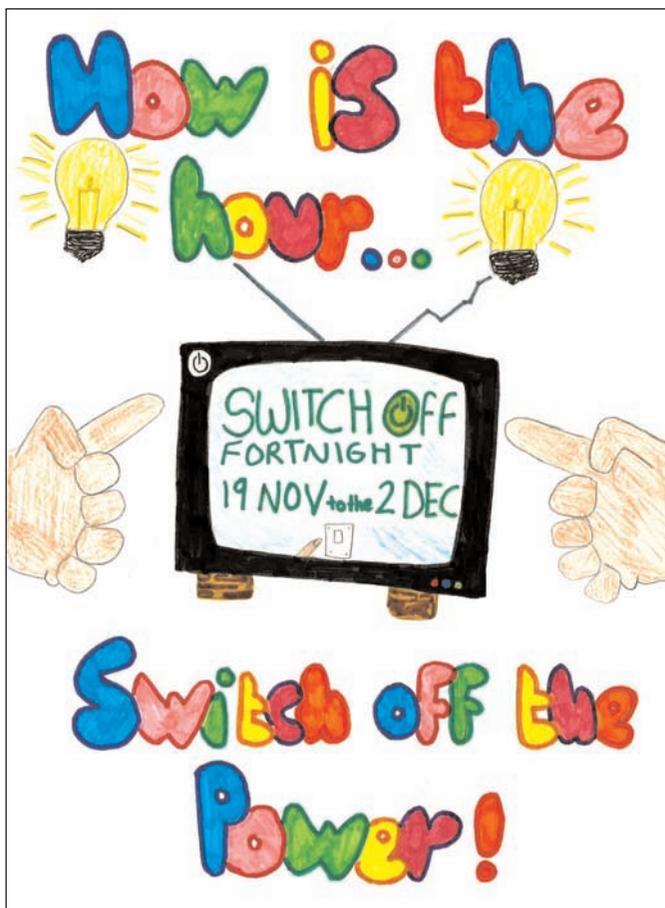
Your cylinder thermostat should be at 60°C/140°F.

3. Close your curtains at dusk

...to stop heat escaping through the windows and check for draughts around windows and doors. Draught-proofing strips are widely available and fitting them round window and door frames is the simplest of DIY jobs.

4. Always turn off the lights

...when you leave a room.



5. Don't leave appliances on standby

...and remember not to leave laptops and mobile phones on charge unnecessarily.

6. Whenever you can, fill up the washing machine, tumble dryer or dishwasher:

...one full load uses less energy than two half loads.

7. Only boil as much water as you need

...but remember to cover the elements if you're using an electric kettle.

8. A dripping hot water tap wastes energy

...and in one week wastes enough hot water to fill half a bath, so fix leaking taps and make sure they're fully turned off!

9. Use energy saving light bulbs.

They last up to 10 times longer than ordinary bulbs, and using one can save you around £55 over the lifetime of the bulb. This saving could be around £120 over its lifetime if you're replacing a high wattage incandescent bulb, or one used for more than a few hours a day. Not sure which bulbs you need? Low Carbon Oxford North has a lightbulb library – including new LEDs - so you can try out which bulbs work in your fittings. Email info@lcon.org.uk to borrow the library.

10. Ask the Energy Saving Co-operative to come and do a free home energy check for you.

Just visit www.lcon.org.uk/2012/08/09/join-energy-saving-coop-pilot/ and complete the short questionnaire that you'll find there. The ESC's experts will visit you at a time to suit you, discuss your needs and come up with a plan for you to consider.

Oh - and here's an extra idea:

11. Join the Low Carbon Oxford North

...mailing list at www.lcon.org.uk/ mailing-list/

St Aloysius Primary School, Wolvercote Primary School, St Michael's Primary School, New Hinksey Primary School, St Ebbe's Primary School, St Joseph's Primary School, St Nicholas' Primary School, Grandpont Nursery, and The Cherwell School

