



OUTDOOR LEARNING NEWS

Dates for Diaries

Woodland Trust Planting Party. December 4th 9.15am -3pm
Outdoor learning every Wednesday except 27th Nov and 18th Dec

The children have been really enthusiastic this term about developing the Peace Garden in school and we thought it would be interesting for parents to know about the progress we have made.

We now have raised beds and a tree stump reflection area (which some of the children call the friendship circle) this is thanks to volunteers and donations from parents. The children have made full use of these areas by starting the 'Grow to School' programme which guides us on what to grow, where and when. This has been purchased by school and is proving to be a fantastic resource. The children have learnt how to plant seeds and seedlings, protect them from the frost, develop a crop rotation system and improve the quality of the soil. We have also learnt how to upcycle things, such as the wormery and the wood used for the den building area.

We have planted lots of bulbs around the grounds and made a new bed outside Eagles and around the lavender tyre. Thank you to parents who have donated the bulbs. We should see the fruits of our labour in Spring. Children also litter pick and help tidy their own outdoor areas. The Eco Council are working hard to fundraise for a new wormery and outdoor notice board to display children's learning in. Please support their bun sales which will be coming soon!



I cannot stress enough how keen the children have been to get involved in this project and have been involved in every stage and where possible the sessions are led by the children's interests. On this note, it has been a real shame that some children are unable to come outside because they haven't got appropriate clothing. The weather will be very wet and cold from now until Christmas so as an absolute minimum could children have **wellies/sturdy shoes and a waterproof coat in school on a Wednesday.**

Current crops- potatoes, Kale, salad, garlic, onions, rhubarb, peas, broad beans and some sapling fruit trees.

Plans - we are working towards our planting day as our main focus, however we have ongoing projects such as a solution to the dirty wellies in the classroom in Eagles. Some of the children are working on making a wellie rack. We are re-planting the willow tunnel as our first attempt has now died so are learning that things don't always work out first time. We would also like to start working in conjunction with the kitchen to see if they can include some of our produce in the children's meals.

Planting party - We have had a successful application to The Woodland Trust to plant free trees as part of their campaign to save the planet by planting one tree at a time. We have 90 saplings to plant as a hedgerow so hopefully **one for every family in school.** Eagles entered a class competition using The Woodland Trust planting planner online to design where the saplings should go with consideration to such things as: growth over time, implications to wildlife and the infrastructure that is already in place. The winning entry was Erin and Eva's so well done to them and everyone for their hard work.

Children's family's are invited along to school on 4th December to plant a sapling with their child/children. There is enough for one sapling per family. The children will be coming out in class groups at the time they usually do on a Wednesday.

Dolphins 9.15-10.15am

Eagles 11-12pm

Starfish 1-2pm

Lions 2-3pm

If you are a family with more than one child at school **please come at the time that your youngest child will be planting** and we will arrange for you other children to come and join you. If you can bring your own spade that would be great and if you have any children's spades that we can use on the day please bring them along with your name clearly marked on so that we can return it at the end of the day. We are hoping to have some warm drinks to keep us going through the day. any donations of flasks of soup, tea, coffee, buns, treats to keep us going would be gratefully received. Also if you would like to stay all day as a volunteer to help other children plant then please let the office know and I can assign you a job for the day!

Many thanks for your support,
Sally Wolff
Outdoor Learning

