

Eco News



The Eco Committee met for the first time this academic year in mid-October. It was agreed that our current focus should be on ensuring that our school site is as litter free as possible, following the analysis of a litter pick conducted just before the summer holidays. Our two Year 5 committee members, Erskine and Zeena, presented their findings to the whole school and encouraged everyone put their rubbish in the correct bin. We continue to collect crisp packets from the dining hall and playgrounds on a weekly basis and are still collecting batteries. If you have any at home, please do send them in! Mollie (Year 2) and Amy (Year 4) have also designed some Eco themed posters which are currently displayed around school- these remind everyone that they can do their bit to be eco-friendly.

It's been a busy time in the garden – lots of the summer growth has been cut back and seeds have been collected and stored for next year. Some of our Year 4 children have been very busy planting blubs for next spring and are in the midst of conducting a potato growing experiment. Chitting potatoes have been planted in both our main raised bed and in a bag the children have made predictions about which will produce the best crop and why (the current theory is the bagged potatoes will grow faster because they'll be warmer in a smaller space). Watch this space for the results. If all goes well, our crop should be ready around Christmas/ New Year.



On November 9th, Bella and Tom from the Kent Wildlife Trust visited school. They presented an assembly outlining the Wilder Kent Awards, which we are now working towards, as well as an explanation about the Darent Valley Landscape Recovery project.

Following the assembly, our Eco Committee were involved in the initial stages of creating an action plan for the coming year. These focussed around three themes: engaging with nature, protecting nature, along with sustainability and carbon reduction. The committee will reconvene soon to prioritize its aims and begin work. Tom and Bella will visit us again in January/February for an update and to share some ideas on how we can develop our wonderful grounds even further. Watch this space for updates!



Finally, Mrs Pullan has successfully secured a bid for funding to improve natural resources across the school site. For our garden area, this means we will be looking at updating and expanding our raised beds as well as considering replacing the liner in our pond (which has been leaking for some time).



It certainly is exciting times for all things eco here at St. John's!