



St John's Eco Committee Newsletter



We are happy to share that the Eco-Committee, along some co-opted enthusiasts, have been busy over the last couple of months beavering away on a variety of projects – despite the weather!



Firstly, a huge **“Thank you!”** to everyone who donated compost, hanging baskets and seedlings on March 6th. The hanging baskets have now been filled with a variety of colourful pansies and will be placed at various locations around the school site. As the Spring/Summer continues they will be updated and augmented with new insect friendly flowers. The seedlings are currently still inside (under Mrs Caswell’s watchful gaze) and will be planted as soon after Easter as possible, along with the wonderful selection of seeds we also received.

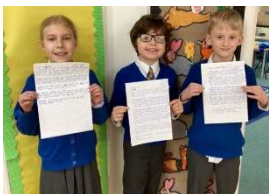


Bella, from the Kent Wildlife Trust returned to St John’s on February 27th and worked with the Eco-Committee to learn more about the wild birds of Kent (where we discovered there are some very keen ornithologists in our midst!). The group also made pine cone bird feeders which they hung around the school - lucky birds!! The afternoon culminated in each person writing their own Wildlife Manifesto; each outlining their hopes and plans for the future of wildlife, not only in our local community, but worldwide. The



children were clear that everyone has a role to play in helping wildlife thrive and even the smallest actions can have positive outcomes.

Most of the work this term has focused on our action plans to achieve not only a Wilder Kent Award but also an Eco-Schools accreditation. We have been very lucky indeed to have been supported by a number of like-minded eco students, and their teacher from Sevenoaks School on Thursday afternoons. These projects have included:



Writing to Mrs Pullan to persuade her to encourage more outdoor learning opportunities at St John’s. Matilda, Adam, Iris and Moses from Year 4 put pen to paper and used their best persuasive writing techniques to present their points and arguments. Were they successful? Watch this space!

Teddy and Melina from Year 3 prepared leaflets about reducing the use of plastics in school and at home. Both girls were passionate about the reduce, reuse and recycle approach and were keen to set up a second-hand uniform sale. Perhaps the PTA could use a couple of enthusiastic assistants the next time they hold a sale? Teddy’s poster is shown in full at the end of this newsletter. Melina’s will be shared at a later date.



Jake from Year 2, and Darcie, from Year 3 worked together to design and paint a bird bath - no easy task when you’ve been asked to blend your individual ideas together! Mollie and Deya from Year 2, Melina and Nia from Year 3 and Amy and Moses from Year 4 also joined in designing and painting the bird baths (made from inverted terracotta pots) in the first of our outdoor activities this year. We just need to seal each pot with some clear varnish before



thinking very carefully about where to place them around school. Again, the local bird life in and around St John's is being well cared for!



Our final project this term involved some of our learners from Year 2 thinking about the negative impact of idling car engines – especially close to schools. Saoirse, Max, Olivia and Deya put their artistic talents to good use in designing posters that spread this message. Their brief: design a simple, yet colourful, poster that conveys this message as effectively as possible. We're sure you'll agree they completed their given task with flare and creativity. Again – keep a look out for these posters in and around school!

As term 4 draws to a close, we look forward to the busy months ahead. We'll continue working towards meeting the targets on our action plans for the Wilder Kent Award and Eco-School Accreditation. We're excited to have our newly purchased water butt installed and to begin checking how much rain water we're able to recycle for our plants. We have plans to enhance our sensory area with herbs, flowers and a wildflower boarder! Bella (from the Kent Wildlife Trust) is due to return next term to help us set up our newly purchased wormery as well as assisting with our new raised bed!



There's certainly lots to do, but we know the children will approach it all with their never-ending enthusiasm and passion for all things Eco! In the meantime, we wish you all a very happy Easter and lots of time outdoors enjoying whatever you relish.

