



St. John's Eco Newsletter



Welcome to the first Eco newsletter of the academic year 2024-25!

Eco Committee Election

The first order of business this year was to hold elections for our new Eco Committee. Each class voted for two representatives and new members were duly elected (in line with current UK political regulations, past members were able to stand for re-election.) Our new committee is pictured below (unfortunately, minus Frederique from Year 6)



Year	Committee Member
2	Phoebe and Noah
3	Molly and Olivia
4	Romilly and Teddy
5	Matilda and Huey
6	Max and Frederique

Minutes from our first meeting, held on October 23rd, are below:

Key Points

Key rules were agreed by the committee and votes were taken as to which ones to use

Opinions were gathered from all members as to how we could make St John's more eco-friendly. Below are the ones shared:

Litter: Teddy asked if Eco Committee members could remind other children to recycle correctly – especially crisp packets on the playground. There was also a suggestion that members ask other children to pick up litter that had been dropped. Not all members were happy to do that. Teddy asked if the Eco



Committee could do litter duty after lunchtimes but Mrs Simpson explained that it was one class's job to do that each term (although this hadn't been set up yet).

Animals Homes: Romilly is very keen to have more animal homes on the school grounds.

Encourage Wildlife: Frederique and Max are keen to establish as many different habitats as possible so we can encourage more wildlife onto the school site.

Next Steps

- All eco committee members will remind other children to put crisp packets (and other suitable packets into the recycling boxes). Some will ask children to pick up dropped packets, others feel more comfortable picking them up themselves.
- Mrs Simpson will look at buying eco committee badges for all children.
- Mrs Simpson will look into buying new recycling boxes for the crisp packets.
- Mrs Simpson will ask Year 6 to be the Eco Class monitors next term (they will do regular litter picks).
- Homes and habitats will be worked on in upcoming meetings and months.

I am happy to report that I've been able to give each child an Eco Committee badge and have purchased new crisp packet recycling bins for the playground, which are emptied weekly by a keen band of Year 5s.



Green Fingers Club

Green Fingers Club ran for the first half of the term but then ceased due to deteriorating weather conditions. However, they packed a lot into those first 6 weeks of term!

The children harvested the last of

the produce from the garden (which did include one solitary spring onion from the many planted – that's gardening for you!) and enjoyed an impromptu tasting session.



They also enjoyed learning how to separate plants in order to grow on new ones (thanks to Mrs Casewell for generously sharing her Peace Lily) and designed a range of plant pots in which to grow a variety of plants.

They also had the opportunity (on one rainy afternoon) to design their own dream gardens (who knows we may have the next Monty Don or Carol Klien amongst us!)



Our last session was blessed with wonderful weather, so Mrs Casewell lead us on a mindfulness walk (making the use of our extensive grounds) where, using items from the environment, we created a journey stick to reflect our thoughts and observations of the amazing natural world around us.



Recycling Assembly



On Tuesday, 26th November, Jolene, from Country Style Recycling, joined Key Stage 2 to talk about the importance of reducing, reusing and recycling as many materials as we possibly can. The children learnt about the how cardboard can be recycled repeatedly, along with the uses of recycled plastic bottles – who knew they could be turned into football kits!

Forest School

As part of the continuing development of the Forest School area, we procured over 200 saplings from the Woodland Trust which arrived at the start of November. That was the easy part. The challenge was then how to get them safely into the ground and how to protect them from the elements in the meantime. Thankfully we were able to rely on the willing members of the Eco-Committee (Matilda, Huey, Frederique and Max) to look after the saplings in their buckets by covering them at night (frost-protection) and keeping the roots moist.



When it came to the planting, Year 5 planted about 120 saplings and Year 6, together with their Reception buddies, took care of the rest. Great work everyone and let's just hope that conditions are right from them to start growing next spring!



As the year draws to a close, we'd like to thank all parents and carers who have contributed to, and supported, all our Eco initiatives this year. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you in 2025!



P.S. Please don't forget you can recycle your Christmas tree at various locations across the district, once the festivities are over. Check out [Christmas tree collections | Sevenoaks District Council](#) for more information.