

UNDER THE CANOPY

Welcome to Newsletter No:5



This half term our theme will be Sustainability

Sustainability:

"verb: The property of being environmentally sustainable; the degree to which a process or enterprise is able to be maintained or continued while avoiding the long-term depletion of natural resources".

As the days grow longer and warmer and winter loosens its grip over the land, the high renewing energy of spring will still be with us as we move into the Summer term. During this half term we will be starting a new theme "Sustainability" which is another of our core values. This overriding theme will allow us to look more deeply at the methods we can use that do not harm the environment so that natural resources are available in the future. We will also be looking at how we can support the eco-systems around us so that they can continue to support life over a period of time.

During Spring 2, the children explored all the "growth" taking place in our school grounds and they also reflected on the many ways they had grown as individuals. Once again they took us all on an amazing learning journey. We discovered the signs of spring, planted and sowed wildflowers seeds, cleared ivy and brambles allowing more light into the grounds and made bird boxes. Again each week I have been so impressed with the groups growing level of confidence, respect and wonder in the natural world.

***"Where flowers bloom
so does hope"
Lady Bird Johnson***



We are excited about the arrival of our Bluebells in April

As we venture into the Summer Term we will once again make sure that our Forest School activities make the most of the transformative energy of the late spring.

Our focus on sustainability may lead us to make recycled paper, learn about foraging where we could make nettle soup, wild garlic pesto or dandelion and lime tea. We might also learn how to make bramble cordage, use natural dyes and press flowers but it will of course be up to the children which direction we will take. As sustainability is our focus we will carefully weave into our learning key issues such as carbon footprints, alternative energy and our Forest School Three Year sustainability plan.

Again, we have included in this newsletter an activity that you might like to do with your child at home. Our Summer 1 challenge "Making a tiny raft" celebrates the local area which has the river Itchen, Monk's Brook, the river Test and the water meadows of Colden Common near by. Please always follow the water safety code and only sail your raft with adult supervision.

Tiny raft making is a really simple and fun activity to do. You can easily incorporate it into a walk or on a visit to a local stream. All you need is some sticks and string for a basic raft. This activity opens up a whole range of play, creating the rafts, having races to see whose can travel downstream the quickest. Get them to see what materials float best.

Thank you for your continued support and I hope you have a super Easter holiday and we look forward to the Summer term.



We are also looking forward to the arrival of our the wild garlic flowers

Mini Raft Making



What you need:

4-8 fairly straight sticks
String
River, stream, water
material/leaf for sail
Scissors

Method

1. Collect sticks that are roughly the same length and diameter
2. Tie string around first stick and tie a knot and then attach the second stick and knot to secure.
3. Repeat this process for the remaining twigs.
4. Next repeat this process along the center and the opposite side then trim off any loose ends.
5. Once you have the main body of your craft constructed, you will need two more sticks measuring slightly over the width of your raft. These will attach underneath placed in the opposite direction along your original knot line.
6. Secure these two twigs at two or three intervals on the underside of your raft.
7. To make your boat mast, find another twig approximately the same length as your raft and attach a material sail or a leaf
8. Now have fun sailing!