

# ECO NEWSLETTER

February 2016

No 2

## Spring Term ~ Waste

Your child (Owl Class) may have told you that we had a Big Think Time assembly on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016 to remind the children of the 3 Rs ~ Reduce, Re-use and Recycle. This term the focus is waste and part of this is our textile recycling which happily covers all 3 of the Rs.



We have booked a textile collection via Wastebusters, unfortunately the earliest date we could book is **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2016**.

The good news is that this gives you the half term and the Easter Holidays to have a 'Spring Clean' of all your unwanted and outgrown clothes. The bags will be delivered to us the week we return from the Easter Holidays.

### Some Fantastic Facts for you:

- The WRAP report "Environmental Benefits of Textile Recycling" in 2010 stated;
- 47% of collected clothes are reused as second-hand clothes;
  - 45% are recycled into wipers, filling materials or reclaimed fibres;
  - 8% end up as waste.

### More Fantastic Facts

- The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that the average person throws away 70 pounds of clothing a year. That adds up to 3.8 billion pounds of unnecessary waste added to our landfills. It is estimated that £238- £249 million of re-usable or recyclable textiles were discarded through kerbside residual waste collections. That's a lot of money being thrown away!
- Once collected, textiles can then be resold to charities or second hand clothes shops, sent to developing countries, turned into wiping cloths which are used by industries or business or they are processed back into fibers and turned into paper, yarn, insulation, carpet padding, and other items.
- If everyone in the UK bought one reclaimed woollen garment each year, it would save an average of 371 million gallons of water, (the average UK reservoir holds about 300 million gallons) and 480 tonnes of chemical dyestuffs- (source: evergreen)
- There are about 6,000 textile banks nationwide, but clothes banks are only operating at about 25% capacity
- Over 70% of the world's population use second hand clothes

If you are interested in knowing more about textile recycling there is an information sheet from Wastebuster ~ The Importance of Textile Recycling, available from the Link or the Reception Area by the Eco Boards.

## Spring Term/Summer Term ~ Grounds



In March last year we introduced Flower Fairies. This was hugely successful and the children would like to do this again this year.

For those of you that don't know, we invite the children, with their parents, to become a 'Flower Fairy', somewhat similar to a Tooth Fairy, where the visit is done 'in secret' and a gift left for others to see.

The aim is that you bring a plant in with your child and choose where to plant it/them. This would mean that the planting will gradually develop to the surprise of everybody else and the child concerned will be able to tell their friends which and where their plant is. By creating a closer relationship with the gardens the children will gain more from caring for it during the school year.

Everybody will get pleasure from seeing where the Flower Fairies left their gifts.

We are hoping to have all our planting and gardens ready by the first day of Spring which is 20<sup>th</sup> March. This obviously depends hugely on the weather when we return after half term but we would like to give you the opportunity to visit garden centres and superstores during the holidays with your children. The current plan is:

- 🌱 Flower Fairies can visit between 29<sup>th</sup> February and 11<sup>th</sup> March
- 🌱 Flower Fairies should **only** leave their gifts in the clearly marked planters/pots around the playground
- 🌱 All 'visits' should be from 8.45 a.m. to 9.00 a.m. or after 3.20 p.m. (once the cars have left the playground)
- 🌱 Tools should not be necessary as all planting areas will be ready. Please come to the office if you require a spade.
- 🌱 If a parent cannot come into school with their child but would like their child to be a Flower Fairy please let us know and either Mrs Dodd or Mrs Bowling will do this with your child when they bring in their plant

All children will be given the opportunity to work in the gardens and help with seeds and growing throughout the school year.

Available planting areas will be clearly marked with a **Flower Fairies Can Plant Here** sign. There should be no need for tools. Ask at the office if you need a spade.



Every child that becomes a Flower Fairy will get to put their name on a Flower Fairy to hang on the ECO Tree in the Link.



During 2013-2014 we achieved our ECO Schools Green Flag status.

Our Green Flag is now due for renewal March 2016! Part of the Green Flag requirement is that all members of the school community are aware of our ECO CODE ~ you will have seen this around the school. It is to be sung to the tune of 'twinkle, twinkle little star' ~ ask your child to tell you about it ☺

To achieve the Green Flag status involves submitting data and then being assessed by a visiting assessor.

There are nine areas to the award: Energy (compulsory), Litter, Waste, Water, Biodiversity, School Grounds, Transport, Global Citizenship and Healthy Living

If you have a particular interest in any of the areas and would like to help us with our Green Flag application activities please contact Mrs Dodd as soon as possible.

At Charlwood Village Infant School we aim to  
**REDUCE, RE-USE AND RECYCLE**  
as much as possible.

## ECO ACTION TEAM

As some of you are aware we have regular meetings of our Eco Team. We consider the whole school community, parents, staff and children as part of our Eco Team. This means that everybody will receive copies of the minutes. We would like everybody to feel that they can attend as many meetings as they would like and to make this easier we will have them at different times. Meetings will be kept very short with just one or two items on the agenda as they will be led by the children.

Please keep a watch on the notice boards and an eye on your email.

Our Reps are:

Aaron, Alfie, Callum, Chloe, Izzie and Sophie.

If you have any suggestions for our Eco Team please email Mrs Dodd/Mrs Bowling at the school office. All ideas and suggestions are welcome.

### HELP AND VOLUNTEERS

In an effort to improve the grounds for our children we have moved some seating to the playground. This, unfortunately, has highlighted the need for our small benches to be cleaned and wood treated/varnished. If anybody would like to take on the task, here or at home, we would be very grateful. Just let us know.

Do you have time on your hands that you don't know what to do with? Please spend it here ☺ There is always work in the gardens for willing volunteers. Our plans this year are for more salad and vegetable growing and to move our Bee and Butterfly garden to be accessible to the children. We also need to finish work on our Woodland Area.

When we return to school after the half term holiday work on our gardens will begin in earnest. As you may be aware we had an old shed taken down on the field and several items had to be moved around. We now need to get our gardens and storage areas back in tip top condition. If anybody would like to help with a bit of spring cleaning of our gardens we would be extremely grateful. We will let you know more details about what needs to be done on our return to school but it will mainly be weeding, clearing, transplanting and tidying up.

If any of you are thinning your cottage garden and border plants or have plants that you no longer need we will be happy to give them a good and loving home ☺

