

ECO NEWSLETTER

March 2015

No 3

End of Spring Term

Spring Term has been very busy for the ECO team and the school community. We had a 'Phil' the Bag collection and we will let you know how much was raised when we hear. We organised a Toy Sale that unfortunately we have had to postpone. Our ECO Rep children would like to organise the Toy Sale again for the summer term so please keep anything for then. We met with our ECO Reps and agreed with them that they would take responsibility for making sure that the outside doors at lunchtimes and breaktimes would be kept on the 'latch' thus reducing heat loss. They also now turn off the library computer at the end of the sessions, again saving energy.

As you are aware the second half term was the beginning of our growing activities at school. We had feared that we would have to pull out of the first garden competition this year ~ Horley in Spring ~ due to the amount of preparation involved. It seems that everybody was keen for us to enter again and all pulled together. Thank you so much!



On 5th March we let you know about our Flower Fairy plans. For the next two weeks, from the 9th to the 20th March, we invited the children, with their parents, to become Flower Fairies and leave gifts of flowers planted in our flower beds for the rest of us to 'find'.

The planters and pots were quickly filled with bright flowers and every morning the playground looked prettier than the day before. The children are keen to water every day and we hope this will continue. Every child that became a Flower Fairy has been asked to come and write their name on a fairy and we have added them to the ECO Tree in the Link.

It has been suggested by parents that we have the Flower Fairies visit us again in the summer term. We are more than happy to arrange this if the children (and parents) are willing to take part again ☺

We had a working party on 11th March and made a very impressive start on clearing. Parents have since come in to school, continued the work and have tidied, weeded, cleared the pond, pruned and stained the fencing.

We reached the point where the gardens could once again be handed over to the children to plant the final additions to our Spring Garden.

You may not be aware but everything we do in the garden is to aid the children with their knowledge of growing and caring for plants and their environment. Whilst it would sometimes be easier to just let adults take on the work the aim of the ECO team and the school is for the gardens to be a part of their learning journey and the children are always involved.

On Wednesday 25th March we took the children out to the Spring Garden and planted the spring bulbs that had kindly been donated. They have filled in some gaps and the garden is looking great.

We have heard from Horley Town Council that the judging will take place when we return from the Easter holidays. We will keep you informed.

We would like to thank everybody that has helped with our gardening activities in preparing the school grounds for the children to move on with the planting and growing during the next term. The gardens, planning, planting and care will now be passed back to the children. The parents can now take a well-earned rest, for a little while at least! We have already planned for a further working party to be held on Thursday 18th June - more details will come out nearer the time.

Looking Forward

When we return from the Easter holidays we will be in the summer term. This is when the main focus becomes the gardens, seed sowing and hanging baskets.

All of the children are able to take part in the growing and planting. The watering is a sight to behold - milk cartons come in very handy during the summer months and are a great way to recycle. Take a look on our website at the watering last year! Lunchtimes become a hive of activity with children all over the grounds with watering cans and cartons whilst others are sowing and planting up the hanging baskets. For the really keen gardeners there will also be a gardening club during the summer term.

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.

Just a reminder ~ we will sell the majority of our hanging baskets towards the end of the summer term, once the summer judging has taken place. We will also have a plant stall at the school fair.

SPECIAL THANKS GO TO:

Ms Broadbent
Mr & Mrs Taylor
Mrs Streetley
Mrs Harris
Mrs Armit
Mrs Janet Gocher (Shannon's Grandmother)
Mrs Green
Mr & Mrs Porto

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

You will have noticed that there is a suggestion box on the noticeboard in the Link. This can also be used for any suggestions for our Eco Team. Please complete the slip available on the ECO board and place it in the box. It would be helpful to know who you are so that we can contact you regarding your idea but you also have the choice to remain anonymous. All ideas and suggestions are welcome.

Recycling:

Please remember to continue to make use of our recycling facilities at the front of the school.

