

ECO NEWSLETTER

July 2015

No 4

End of Summer Term

This is our final Newsletter of this school year. Firstly we would like to say goodbye to our Year 2 children and thank them for all their help during the year. A special thank you goes to Charlie and Leah our Year 2 Eco Reps. Thank you, too, to Alfie and Izzie our Year 1 Eco Reps.

Secondly we would like to thank all our children that have helped during the school year. As you are aware all children are given the opportunity to help with all aspects of our gardening and Eco work. Our focus in the Autumn Term was Energy and the children were enthusiastic and helpful about turning everything possible off during our 'How Low Can You Go? Day' - Year 1 spent a couple of hours in a rather dim classroom insisting that it **was** bright enough! Waste focus during the Spring Term was all about 'Reduce, Re-use, Recycle' and the children continued with their usual good work and parents contributed by sending in unwanted textiles for a 'Phil' the bag collection. Summer Term creates the most work and the children help with planting and, most importantly, copious amounts of watering as the weather heats up towards the end of term. With over 30 hanging baskets this year the watering has been a major task particularly before and after school each day for the staff. We're sure you agree though that our grounds have been very colourful this year.

Continuing with the thanks, we would like to thank all the adults that have given us their time this year to help, particularly with the gardens. We truly are extremely grateful! As you know we were considering not entering the garden competitions this year but with your help (and help from our Flower Fairies) the gardens were looking great in time for the 'Horley in Spring' competition. This year we were awarded joint 1st place.

With the help from Ms Broadbent, the parent of an Early Years child, we were kindly donated hanging baskets, masses of flowers and soil from local companies ~ Please see the list at the end of this Newsletter. Our very grateful thanks go to all these companies for helping our gardens to look so colourful and welcoming this year.

Our competition entries seemed to come thick and fast this year. On 21st April we were visited by the judges for 'Horley in Spring' then by the judge for 'South and South East in Bloom' on 10th June and finished by the judges for 'Horley in Bloom' on 10th July. On 9th July we received notification that we had been awarded 'Highly Commended' in the Horley in Bloom competition. The school year and all competitions were very nicely finished up when we received our certificate from the South and South East in Bloom ~ Blooming Schools team on Monday 13th July. We were very pleased to be awarded Silver-Gilt again this year and also to have increased our point score.

Some of you may not be aware that the entering of these competitions is only a side-shoot of our work with the children in our school Eco activities. Our main aim is to encourage the children into the garden - be it at home or at school - to learn about the world around them, how we make a difference and how to grow our own fruit and vegetables as well as flowers. We know that some of you had some very questioning children following our assembly on where our tomatoes come from (80% of them from the Canary Islands), the many thousands of miles they travel and how we could be growing them in our own gardens 😊. We have a Bee and Butterfly garden as the children learn how important the bees are to our food production and to the pollination of all kinds of plants. It isn't just about the pretty flowers! 😊

We already have lots of ideas for next year but we will only be able to do so much without help. Please consider helping with our Eco projects next year - we will let you know in the Autumn Term how we plan to put them all in place for the school year.

As promised, the companies that we would like to thank and hope that you will, in turn, support are listed below.

Our very sincere thanks go to:

Haskins - Snowhill
B&Q, Crawley
Pound Shop, Crawley
Pound World, Crawley
Squires, Crawley
Outreach, Ifield
Bucklands Nurseries, Betchworth
Knights, Betchworth
Doves Barn Nurseries, Felbridge
Wyevale, Crawley (Cophorne)
Burstow, Shipley Bridge

