

# ECO NEWSLETTER

## Welcome back to a New Year and New Gardens!!

We would like this year to be our most colourful yet and the children are looking forward, as they always are, to getting on with the sowing, planting and growing.

We will shortly begin planting seeds in school with the children but would also like to ask for your help.

Can you help by doing any of the following:

- 🌱 Provide your child with a packet of **flower** seeds to bring in to school and sow here - if every child brought in a packet of seeds we would have our grounds overflowing with flowers for the judges to see this year.
- 🌱 Provide your child with any recycled containers for us to plant seeds in such as milk cartons, mushroom containers, meat trays etc. Of course proper seed trays are also extremely welcome! 😊
- 🌱 Send us in any extra plant trays and pots you have that are unwanted and if you visit a garden centre could you check their recycling bins for us as they often have pots, that they have taken plants out of, being given away free.

Plug plants will soon be available in garden centres and this will also be a further opportunity for the children to learn about other options of buying and planting.

Can you help by doing any of the following:

- 🌱 Buy plug plants and plant up at home with your child before sending in to school
- 🌱 Buy plug plants and send them in to school and we will plant them up as necessary

Our aim is to have the school grounds bursting with colour this year. More flowers will be planted in the school playground planters with the vegetables mainly being grown in the school garden. More hanging baskets will be on display around the front of the school as well as the back. We need to start early to have enough plants ready and maturing in the hanging baskets by the time they can go outside and in plenty of time for this year's judging.

Looking further ahead we would again like to grow and sell herbs to parents/staff etc. We intend to sell our smaller hanging baskets to parents after the final judging and results at the end of the summer term. Any spare plants from our seedlings will be sold at the Summer Fete on a stall run by the children.

We would like to finish our work on our Woodland Walk as soon as the weather allows. If anybody would like to help with the final stages of levelling a path through the area and clearing any unwanted weeds as they appear we would be very grateful. The South and South East in Bloom judges are looking forward to seeing this area complete this year - so no pressure!! 😊

Our first judging will be for Horley in Spring. This took place on 1<sup>st</sup> April last year so will be upon us very soon. If you have plants that you are thinning or removing or any spring flowering plants/bulbs that you wish to donate we will give them a very warm welcome.

**As always if you can spare any time to help with our gardens please let us know.**

## **Spring Term Activities**

This term the focus for our ECO activities is WASTE.

WASTE WEEK IS 2<sup>ND</sup> ~ 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2015

The focus of the Waste campaign is plastic. We aim to show the children that many items can be recycled and reused.

We will keep you updated but plans will include:

- ♻️ 'Phil' the Bag textile collection (start collecting your unwanted items now - half term holidays will give you an opportunity to start on your spring-cleaning) **Collection day is Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March.** We should be able to send bags home before half term.
- ♻️ Toy Sale/Swap stall ~ the children have decided that they would like to hold another sale this year. The plan is for your child to donate their unwanted toys, games, books etc., bring in some spending money and take home some 'new to them' toys. **Date to be confirmed.**
- ♻️ Plastic containers/milk cartons to be used for planting and seed sowing. Please donate.
- ♻️ Please continue to bring in your **milk carton lids** for the recycling container in the playground. Once again, please remember to rinse them and make sure that they are **MILK LIDS ONLY.**

As always our ECO activities require a lot of time and attention. We have enthusiastic staff and children but more help is always gratefully received. Some things we cannot do without help. Please let us know if you can donate a little of your time.

## **ECO MEETING**

Our next ECO meeting will be held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February at 12.45.

As all parent/carers are considered part of our ECO community all are welcome to attend the meeting. It will last no more than half an hour.