

Outdoor Learning Resource

Newsletter *August 2020 update*

Gardening Now!

By the time you get back, the potatoes will have been harvested. Josie Jones, our head cook is currently on a limited menu and can't use the fresh produce in the school canteen just yet, so 3 x baskets are being offered to Captain Susan Tidball of the Salvation Army, for distribution during their Sunday foodbank and some offered for donations, (towards what we do). Runner beans, French beans will also have been harvested and brown onions are laying on the beds. For the first time we have had some Gladioli flower. Unfortunately, the squirrels have reduced our crop of desert apples. The wasps and butterflies are making the most of the windfall ones.

Forest Now!

Some work has been done on trees to remove heavy overhanging branches. Other light overhangs, form part of our dry canopy, so you won't get wet when you visit! Ivy has been severed from the mature trees at the roots, leaving plenty in the upper canopies for wildlife. This reduction undoubtedly helped both of the Maples during the recent high winds. Two more dens have been added, so have fun finding them. Construction of both the 'blue house' and 'igloo' has been started and you will need to complete these during the next term.

Yr. 7 Transition

Probably during the first and second week of term, yr. 7 will have the opportunity to visit the Adventure Learning Centre, as a tutor group and spend time in Outdoor Learning, as part of their Humanities programme, considering 'spirituality of place'. Both Mr Parker, Ms Carlton and Mr Mitcheson have worked on this. They have also organized an alternative residential experience which will take place in early October. More news later.

Features and habitats

As indicated above, 2 new dens have been added. 'Plasto being' now has a recycled head and shortly will be placed safely up in a conifer tree, mid canopy. Signage will be added, drawing your attention to the facts around our human use of plastics. This term we will need to replace all of our hedgehog habitats, as they don't last forever. Insect and small bug hotels will need to be re-made, bird feeders strategically placed and mini water features topped up with rain water. As the autumn leaves fall, we will continue to fill up recycled veg. bags and place them, both at the WW1 trench defences and on the growing beds, as they go into their rest period.

