

Parklands Eco Team - Growing Our Garden

Hi everyone,

During this week your child will be bringing home a paper plant pot with a seed planted in it. We would like the children to grow these plants at home for this term, then bring them back to school after the Easter holidays.

Why are we doing this?

Through this school wide activity, the children will be learning that they can grow plants, it's a simple and important thing to do, and everyone can do it - everyone can be a gardener.

They will also be learning about working together to grow a garden and that different plants grow best in different environments. Last year we just had sunflowers, this year we are sowing lots of different sorts of flowers, that are all bee and insect friendly. They might look different, and need different environments to grow well (e.g. lots of sun, or shady warmth), but they are all beautiful and they all contribute to improving the environment around us.

A lot like the children who are planting them!

Instructions for looking after the plants

Your child will be bringing home a newspaper pot, which has a seed planted in it. The pot should have a label on it telling you what sort of seed has been planted. The seed needs to be watered lightly every couple of days, and left on a warm sunny shelf where your child can watch it grow.

Because the pot is made of newspaper it might get a little bit soggy when watered, so we would advise putting it on a saucer or small plate. If the seed is watered as per instructions and left in sunlight, it should sprout within a couple of weeks. Continue to let it grow. If you feel that it is getting too big for the paper pot, simply get a bigger pot (whatever you might have around the house, as long as it has some drainage holes in the bottom) Get some compost in the bigger pot and bury the whole lot (paper pot and plant) leaving the green shoots of the plant above the soil.

If you don't have access to some extra compost, let school know and we will provide some additional compost for you.

The paper pot will break down into the other compost, feeding the plant - it won't stop the plant from growing.

When do we want them back?

We hope you and your child will enjoy this growing task at home for a while, but the ultimate goal is to fill our school with beautiful flowers, so we would like to have the plants back after the Easter holidays (week commencing 1st May) so that we can plant them out into the school grounds and build a beautiful garden together.

What are we going to do with them?

The plants will create a brighter environment around the school, they will feed the insects and by doing so support the wildlife that live in our school grounds, like hedgehogs and birds etc. We are hoping to do more work on the school grounds, and the wildlife garden as part of our green day activities in the summer term. Having lots of flowers to plant around the school that have been grown by our community will be a really exciting way to involve everyone in Green day. We are also entering the Erewash in bloom school garden competition.

If you have any questions, please speak to your class teacher, or the school office.

Thanks for your help,

Eco Team.