

Our School Garden

At Queen Eleanor's, we are blessed with large school grounds. However, we feel that they could be put to better use, both for the benefit of our pupils and the environment. As a staff, we would like to use these spaces for outdoor learning and have been working with the children to think about how they could be adapted to facilitate this. Outdoor learning not only gives us a welcome break from the four walls of the classroom, but also offers a different way of doing things and connects us with nature. Our Eco-Committee also highlighted our school grounds as a way to encourage learning in a different environment as well as the opportunity to increase biodiversity.

We therefore have exciting plans to improve our outdoor spaces. As our budget and time are tight, we will be doing this in phases with the aim of including the children at every step. They have already come up with some exciting design ideas and we hope to start Phase 1 in the summer term.

Phase 1 Summer Term 2022

- Increase biodiversity in the courtyard and playground
- Plant trees
- Use these spaces for outdoor learning



Phase 2 Academic Year 2022-2023

- Create learning spaces on the top field
- Increase planting to encourage pollinators
- Incorporate wildlife areas



Gardening Club

This club starts next week and the children will be planting lots of seeds that we can then use for the playground and courtyard. If you have any spare seeds at home and would like to donate them, we would be very grateful!



We will be having a visit from Douglas Alexander of Wildlife Aid next week during collective worship, who will explain to the children what we can all do to help wildlife and the planet. Please ask your child about this, as there will be things you can try at home too. He will walk the school grounds with the Eco-Committee too, giving them tips to encourage wildlife into our plans for the grounds.

Our PSA Garden Team have been working hard to clear the polytunnel. Unfortunately, we do not have any 'before' pictures to show you just how overgrown it was before they started. Once the beds are filled with new compost, we will be using them to grow some vegetables. They are planning a Ground Force afternoon on May 7th. If you would like to join them, please contact Anna on 07990 648388.



We Need Your Help



For phase 1, we need...

- 1. Planters for our playground and courtyard. In the spirit of recycling/upcycling, we would like donations of articles that could be interesting planters – with a little imagination! These are big spaces, so nothing too small.**
- 2. Any benches that we could surround with planting.**
- 3. Plants – if you are dividing perennials in your gardens, we would love to have some. Drought tolerant plants would be great but we have shady areas too! Please label them so we know where to put them.**
- 4. Any donations of top soil, seeds, canes or expertise will be gratefully accepted!**