



05 Edition

Welcome to the latest edition of the St Peter's Green Team Newsletter!!!

We aim to bring you news about what we have been doing, facts and information about climate change, advice on what you can do to help, fun facts and good news stories. We hope you enjoy reading our newsletter and we can help you to think global and act local!

## **Nature in our school and why it is important**

**Written by Esther Rumsey**

The climate crisis is well known and in the last few years, has obtained a large and diverse audience. This is the development we need. However, what hasn't got this vital awareness is the ecological crisis. It has been left behind and many people are not as aware of it as they are the climate crisis. However, these two issues we face are interconnected. In fact, we cannot solve one without addressing the other.

The ecological crisis is the devastating changes happening to our environments and how this effects reliant species and destabilises their populations. Sadly, these changes are most often inflicted by human input. If we are going to solve the ecological crisis, we must reverse these changes. We must abandon our ignorance of our place within nature. We must reconnect with the natural world.

This is one of the reasons that at St Peter's we have begun to introduce new things on site that create a welcoming environment to wildlife like the bird feeders, the pond, the bug hotel, and the new hedge that has been planted. These new, simple asylums for wildlife create opportunities for our school community to notice and engage with many aspects of nature in our daily lives. This way we can begin to kindle a community more aware of the importance of nature. This awareness can lead to an enthusiasm and understanding for the ever more urgent appeal to secure a safe future for the natural world and to solve the ecological crisis.

Furthermore, this growing observance of nature and wildlife doesn't just benefit the earth but can benefit you as an individual. Nature can generate a multitude of positive emotions, such as calmness, joy, creativity, and can facilitate concentration. A deeper connection with nature can also support your mental health, in particular lower depression and anxiety levels.

Next time you walk round school site, will you notice the nature we have welcomed into school?

## **FUN FACT!!**

**The combined weight of ants is bigger than the combined weight of humans!!**



## **No Mow May!**

**Written by Esther Rumsey, Maria Ostrowska and Roxanne Curativo**

We have become obsessed with making our gardens neat. We have taken this to such an extreme extent that we are stifling life.

We must change!

By letting our gardens grow out we can support so much of our precious wildlife. It allows wildflowers, who's existence is becoming dangerously fragile, to flourish. Wildflowers are vital because they are crucial nectar sources for our pollinators, for example bees. In fact, bees pollinate 80% of wildflowers in Europe! We rely heavily on these insects to pollinate the food that we eat.

No mow May is such a simple and accessible way for us to support our wildlife so as an individual you can easily help. All you need to do is put your lawn mower away and enjoy the wildflowers, pollinators that come to your garden and watch your garden grow.

Will you put your lawn mower away?



## Nature Poems

By all of the green team

This term we were challenged to write nature poems. The task involved us looking at an image of a wild animal and coming up with words that we associated with that animal. We then had to use those words to write a poem.

Below is what we came up with!

A photo of an otter was used to inspire this poem.



Otters squeaking on the riverside

Tiptoeing to catch fish as a family

Together, as adorable brown mammals, like a sea dog.

Every wet whisker wiggling through the water,

Rolling down the riverside.

A photo of a hedgehog and a snail was used to inspire this poem.

This is a rhyme about slime

Snails are slow and take their time



Opposites attract to make a wholesome act

Hedgehogs are predators, snails are the prey, that is a fact!

One a spikey mammal, the other has a shell

For the insect this could be hell!

## Good news story!

**Coral reef scientists have recorded videos of corals spawning on mass off the coast of Cairns, Queensland. This gives new hope for the Great Barrier Reef!**



## Compost Awareness Week

**Written by The Green Team**

This term we have been doing some research into compost and its benefits for the environment. This is what we have found out.

In a world overwhelmed with waste and neglect of vital natural resources, composting is a vital solace. Composting keeps valuable resources out of landfill and saves water by helping to retain moisture. Also, compost improves the natural composition of soil by returning valuable nutrients to the soil. It is also an organic and natural substitute to chemical fertilisers which unfortunately we have plagued our soils with over many decades. This is why compost awareness week had the campaign slogan of SOS – SAVE OUR SOILS.



What goes into a compost bin?

- Vegetable peelings
- Fruit waste
- Tea bags (plastic free ones of course 😊)
- Plant pruning's
- Grass cuttings
- Egg shells
- Cardboard such egg boxes or toilet roll tubes
- Shredded paper
- Fallen leaves

These things all help to make the compost nutrient rich and moist for the soil.

What should not go into a compost bin?

- Meat and fish scraps
- Dairy, fats or oils
- Plants treated with pesticides
- Diseased plants
- Charcoal ash

These things will all have a negative impact on the compost you are trying to create.

There are different types of compost bins available

1. Continuous
2. Batch
3. Indoor/worm

1. Continuous composters handle a variety of materials from the list above. They are called continuous as you can continually add materials to the. The compost is generated slowly and the finished product can be found at the bottom. They are best for those people who want a place to dispose of their kitchen waste in their garden.
2. Batch composters are efficient as they use a tumbling action. It can take 4-8 weeks. It is the fastest way to create compost but requires daily attention.
3. Indoor or worm composters are best for kitchen waste and provide a fascinating way to engage young people in the process of compost making.

