



Mill Water Sensory Orchard

Newsletter Autumn Term 2016

As the cold finally arrives, we have been focused on harvest and preparations for winter. Apple Week has been a big success again. The children created a winter home for our reptile and amphibian residents and have been preparing the Orchard for winter. Meanwhile, the wheelchair accessible tree house, funded by the National Lottery Grants For All scheme, is moving forward and phase one should be complete by spring half term.



We completed the memorial garden. The children chose words and images to best reflect how and why we remember people who have died.





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Apple Week!!!



Mill Water's second annual Apple Week was a great success. Children across the school participated in apple themed activities including pressing for juice. They were learning about harvest and where our food comes from in an immediate, tangible way.



Thanks to Vigo presses who supplied the press and shredder and donated buckets.





Enterprise

We made apple jelly to sell at the Christmas Fair. The children planned and researched markets and made, labelled and sold the jam, raising over £30 for the PTFA.



The Memorial Garden

Within the boundary of the Orchard is a garden space that we have set aside as a place to remember former pupils who have died. Sadly, many of our children have conditions that affect their life expectancy. The memorial plaques from the previous school have been transferred to the new school and have been remounted by the children. A commemorative bench has also been placed in the garden. We had meaningful discussions with the children about remembering people and pets that have passed away.



Maintaining the Orchard

The children have worked hard on the many small tasks required to keep the space safe, productive and beautiful.

Tasks have included digging vegetable beds, mowing lawns and paths, weeding borders, clearing apples, planting bulbs and creating winter habitats for insects, reptiles and mammals. The children learn valuable skills and enjoy the work, even in the wet when adults are less keen!



Thanks again to all the pupils and staff at Mill Water School for their hard work. Thank you to all our supporters and friends beyond the school for everything you do to support the project.