



Mill Water School

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Mill Water Sensory Orchard

Newsletter Spring Term 2017

It has been an exciting and productive Spring Term, we have been very busy and have achieved a lot in the wet mud! Gardening developments have been a focus, children have remodeled and extended the African Garden and begun work on a new vegetable bed. We have planted garlic and sown seeds for planting out next term. The children love this and have learnt many practical skills underpinned by learning about life cycles and plant requirements. We have established a coppice bed that will start producing in two to three years. The big news is the completion of phase 1 of the wheelchair accessible tree house, the children are really enjoying this new development and we hope to complete phase 2 this year.



Coppice Beds and the African Garden



We removed blackthorn and replanted willow that we can coppice and use for craft and garden purposes. We learnt about life cycles and the things plants need to grow well.



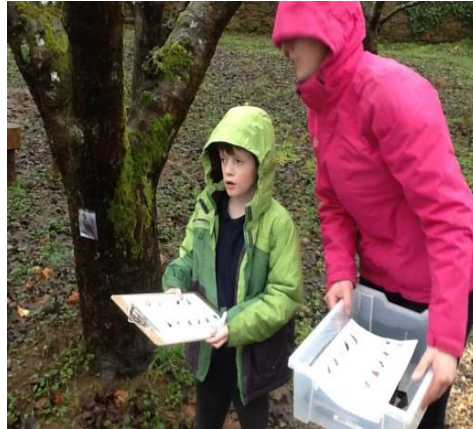
We remodeled and extended the African Garden and began planting, learning where our food comes from.



Bird Week and The Devon Greater Horseshoe Bat Project



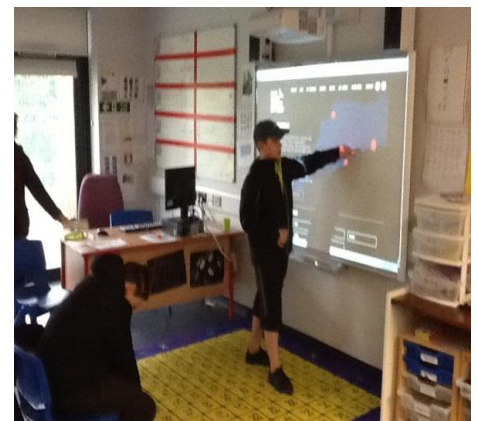
The Big Schools Bird Watch this year was very wet! This didn't stop the whole school getting out to survey our bird population. It seems the birds were much less keen on the rain! Our counts were down significantly during the week but in the sunnier weeks either side of our survey we saw many more species.



Next Term...

We are getting involved in the Devon Greater Horseshoe Bat Project (DGHBP), protecting and raising awareness of this bat species and learning all about these fascinating creatures. Mill Water is only a few miles from the largest maternity roost in Europe and was built with bat conservation in mind, the DGHBP are keen to be involved with our school.

Check out their website:
www.devonbatproject.org



Funding

The PTFA have been very busy facilitating a variety of fundraising and community awareness events to raise money to be spent around the school. Among the developments they are fundraising for are a new shed come workspace for the outdoor school and phase 2 of the wheelchair accessible tree house.

Thanks to the PTFA and all their supporters for making the Orchard an increasingly magical space.



Thanks as always 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.