



# Mill Water School

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## Mill Water Sensory Orchard

### Newsletter Spring Term 2016

Welcome to our Spring Term Orchard newsletter. It has been decidedly damp throughout this particularly short school term but, despite this, work and activities in the orchard have continued apace!

A highlight was the Big Schools Bird Watch in January which the whole school participated in. The children carved a new piece for the tactile rail and we completed the first stage of this outside. We have completed the connective main path linking the senior and junior playground via the orchard and have started work on our second access path through the storytelling area.

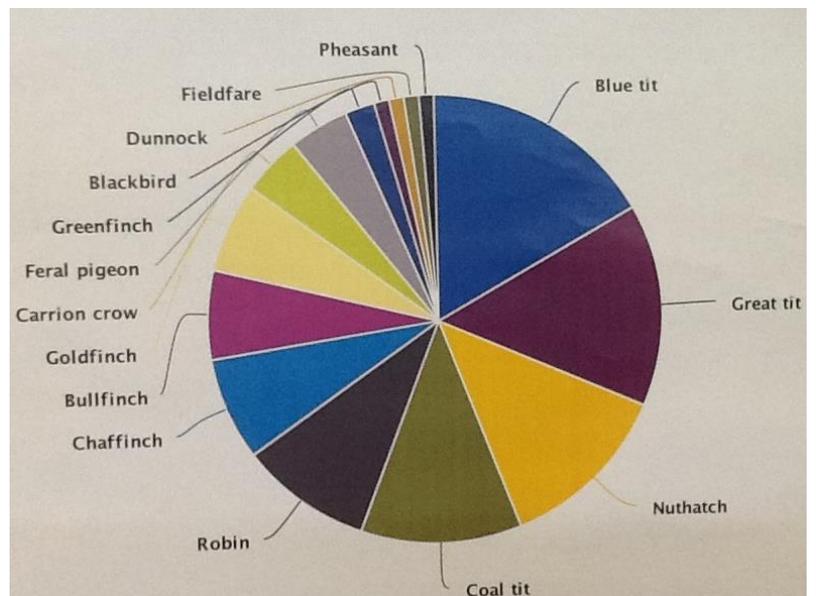
### The Big Schools Bird Watch

Several groups participated in setting up the bird hide and creating and maintaining the bird feeding area. We provided a wide variety of foods to attract as many species as possible. The children learned about species diversity, the importance of knowing numbers and the type of birds locally compared to the national picture, and about caring for the creatures in the environment.



Every class in the school took part. In the junior school, children matched pictures of birds hidden around the Orchard with their tick chart. In the senior school we did some proper birdwatching, counting numbers and species. The orchard has a diverse population.

We uploaded our results to the RSPB website, taking our part in the nationally valuable survey.





## Wheelchair Access At Last!!



January was so wet we couldn't effectively begin laying paths; February was brighter and we were able to get on with it. The children levelled out the route and lined up and fixed the mats in place with an underlay. We really had to work as a team and the job provided many opportunities for applying mathematics, especially shape, space and measure.

### Funding Update

The **Christmas Enterprise Day** in which children across the school made a wide variety of items to sell at **Mill Water Christmas Fair** raised £640!  
The **Budleigh Buddies** kindly held their Murder Mystery Meal in support of the Orchard raising £1200!  
**Waitrose** raised £200 for outdoor equipment!

Thank you to everyone for your support.



### Tactile Rail Stage 1

Following on from our fencing success of December we put more posts in and got some rails up. Class 8 carved another section with their own shape-based designs. Children across the school got to practise sawing, drilling, and using a screwdriver and a level.



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