

## **Garden Journal Summer Term Two 2024**

It's been a very busy time during the last term of the year!

These are some of the gardening events and activities we have enjoyed:

- Starting the renovation of Year 2 Garden, including a visit by a corporate team
- Community Gardening club mini-garden competition
- Fun gardening activities including seed snails, picking raspberries and strawberries, cucumbers and beans
- Community Gardening club working with ENACT including a very enjoyable visit to their community allotment at Newbury Road
- Watching wildlife develop in the mini-meadow such as the exciting sight of Cinnabar moth caterpillars
- Year groups harvesting their crops
- Seasonal Walks to enjoy the wildlife and plants in our beautiful grounds

## Year 2 Garden Renovation



The pictures above show the year two garden as it was, with broken beds and a dangerous path. In July we were very lucky to receive help in this garden from a corporate team of people. They all worked very hard to remove the tyre chippings and the plastic edging of the beds, ready for the creation of a new garden.



## The Corporate Team Busy At Work



## Tyre Chippings Successfully Removed

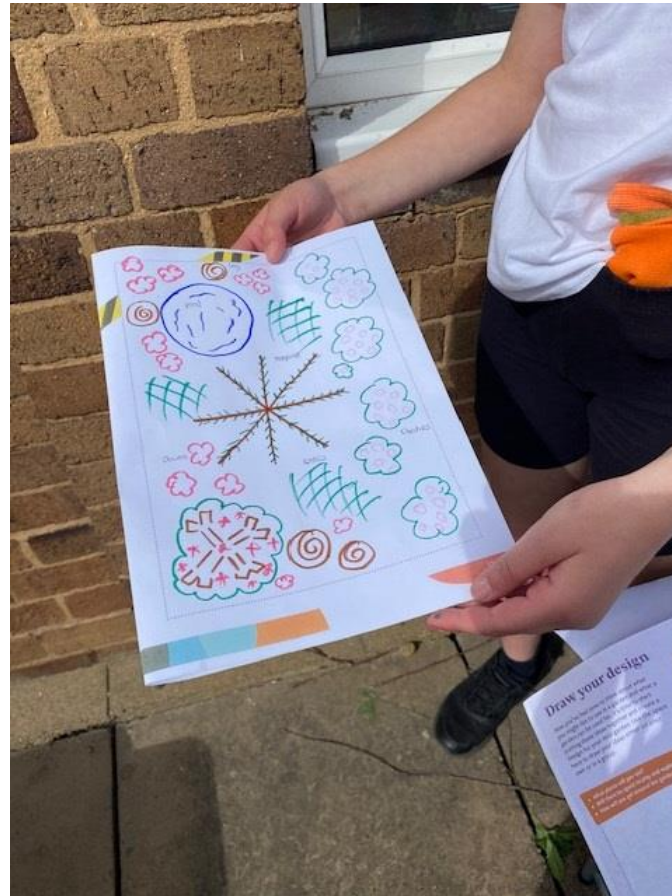
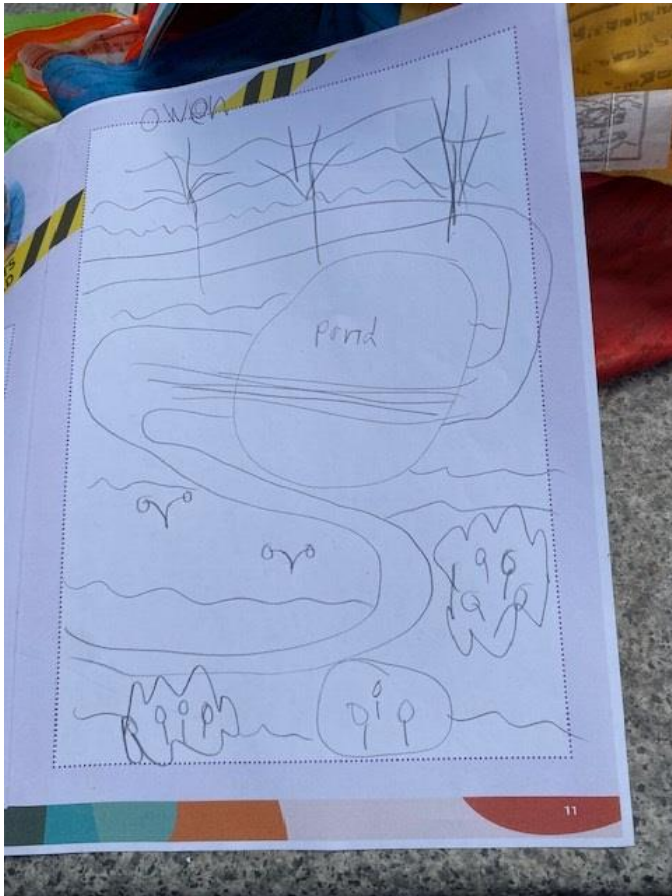


The next step for the garden will be the removal of all the weeds and the levelling of the ground. Hopefully we can begin laying a path and planting in the autumn.



## RHS Design A “No Adults Allowed” Mini-Garden Competition

Stage One: The children discussed what they would like in a “No Adults Allowed Garden” and made drawings to illustrate their ideas. Yvette made a demonstration garden to inspire the children!



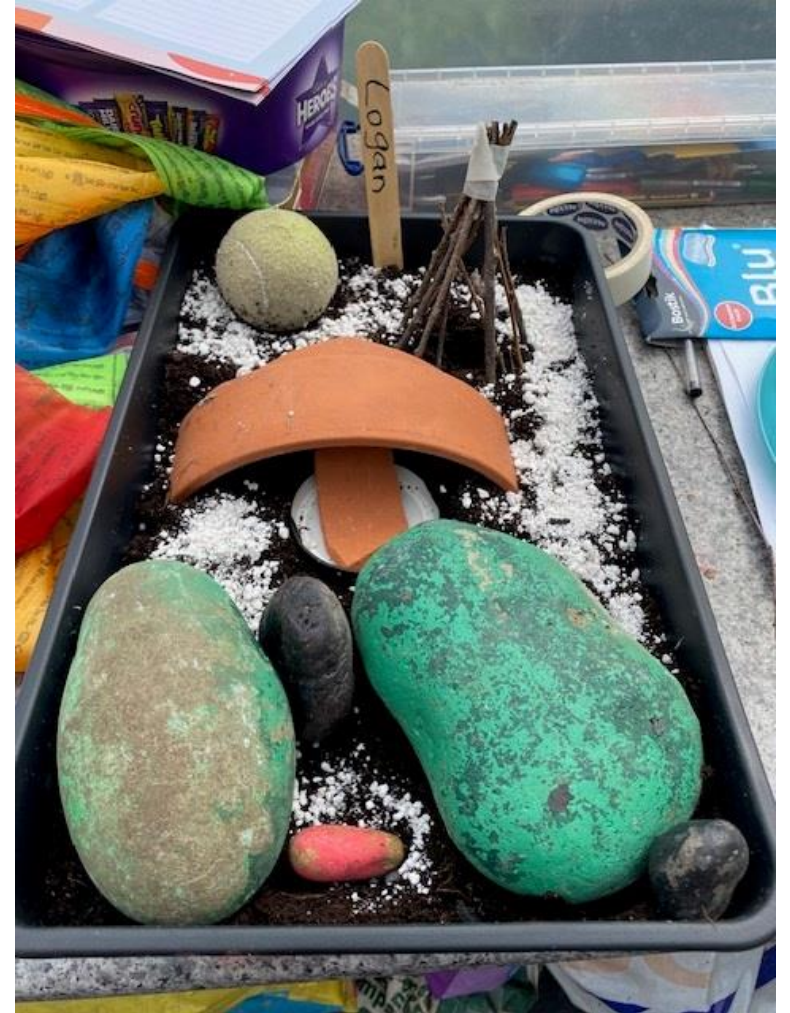


**Some Very Important  
Garden Designers At  
Work!**





**Stage Two: The children used their drawings to help them set out their mini-gardens**





Lots of children included a pond in their design, as water is so important for encouraging every form of wildlife!





Dens, bridges and camping were popular!





**Stage 3: The finished gardens! The children choose their favorite garden features to include in the whole group entry.**





**Stage Four: Together we created a final garden plan for our school entry. We included features that support wildlife, areas to grow food, things to help the planet and features to improve our well-being. We are hoping that we can use some of our ideas in our new year two garden!**

We sent a photo of our entry to the RHS competition.





Log pile and wildlife pond



Den building area





**No adults allowed den (password required!)**



**Wildlife meadow with bug hotel and natural recycled shell path**





**Edible forest of apple tree and blackcurrant bushes with a recycled terracotta path**



**Dead hedge for wildlife and another pond, fed by rainwater from the hide-out!**







**The drainpipe feeding the pond recycles water from the roof**



**Hedgehog highway fence- a gap in the fence allows the hedgehogs to pass through**



**Smelly nettle soup- a natural fertilizer for the plants**



## Community Gardening Club Enjoyed Picking Cucumbers

The cucumbers tasted so fresh and sweet compared to supermarket produce.





## Seed Snails

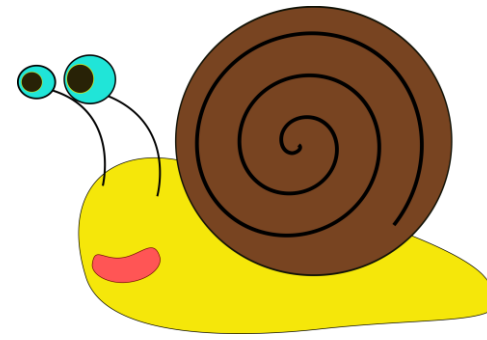


Gardening club made seed snails- they were a great way to recycle cardboard and ensure that each seed had it's own separate growing space. They were very easy to transplant too as the roots stay separate!



## Seed Snails Instructions

A fun and easy way to grow seeds using recycled materials!



1. Cut a strip of card approximately 15cm wide and 40cm long- the flap on an old cardboard box is ideal!



2. Add a layer of moist soil onto the strip of card. It must be moist to help it stick to the card.



3. Press the soil onto the card to help it stick.



4. Gently roll up the card keeping to soil in place.





5. Place the rolled card/soil into a plastic pot. It should be a tight fit to make sure the cardboard stays rolled tightly.



6. Place your seeds into the soil snail. If your seeds are big you only need a few!



7. Give your snail a name- make sure it includes the name of the seeds. Keep your snail damp. When the seeds have grown, you can unroll your snail and plant the separate seedlings!



## Raspberry and Strawberry Picking



We couldn't believe how many raspberries we had grown!  
Everyone loved the sweet taste of the fruit.





# Community Gardening Club

This week staff and families from ENACT joined our weekly gardening club.



Making seed bombs!



## Community gardening Club and ENACT

During the summer term we were very lucky to be able to welcome Natasha from ENACT into our gardening club.

Natasha helped our club make seed bombs and we showed Natasha how to make seed snails!

We were very excited to visit Natasha at the community allotment on Newbury Road. We helped to harvest potatoes and found out about how to make a mini-pond area.





## Wildlife in the allotment garden mini-meadow

Week 1- The tiny caterpillars have hatched and they are busy feeding on the plant which is called Ragwort.



Week 2- The caterpillars have doubled in size! They are starting to separate and move around the garden to find more fresh Ragwort to eat.



Soon after week 2 the caterpillars disappeared- they like to hide underground and emerge as moths in May.



## Harvesting Crops



Year 5W worked hard to water and look after their Mange-tout, Nasturtiums and tomatoes. They liked the taste of the Mange-tout and thought that the Nasturtiums were spicy!











Year 6 classes grew Broad Beans. Most of their crop was destroyed by blackfly, but luckily these plants in the allotment garden survived!







These onions were planted by gardening club in Autumn 2023. We harvested them this summer and then dried them out for storing in the polytunnel.



Gardening club had fun harvesting potatoes- it was like finding treasure in the soil!





## Plant Stall

This year we grew extra plants so that we could have a plant stall at the summer celebration.

The grape vines and blackcurrant plants were popular!



## Beautiful Pots

We were very lucky to receive some plants from The Hampton Court Flower Show. These plants were part of the Lancaster's Garden of Renewal, Nature's Embrace.

