

# Garden Newsletter Winter 2024



**Echo Eternal Curriculum Garden**

## **A new garden year awaits.....**

Once November and December come and go, probably the two months that are the least productive in the garden, there is great optimism as we look ahead to not only a new year but also the time when a new gardening year awaits... Seeds need to be ordered ready for sowing.....

There is always plenty of preparation work that can be done, we have set up some new growing areas with more to follow. Bird Boxes have also been put up, some planting work has been done which you will see later....

## **Seed Heads being left for wildlife.....**



Another way that we can help wildlife to get through the colder winter months is to leave plenty of seed heads on our plants.....

Here you can see plenty of seed heads left on our fennel plants, also we have left our wildflower areas that also have plenty of seed heads....



## Looking after nature.....

We really do make a really conscious effort within our garden areas to help and provide an environment where all forms of nature can flourish and survive, we NEVER use any chemicals or pesticides in our garden.....

Our garden area has so many flowering herbs that along with many other areas of our planting provide a rich source of food for the bees and many other pollinating insects. Bird boxes and bat boxes are set up in our garden areas plus a second solitary bee nester has been set up too.....



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# Homes for Nature.....



## Contrasting foliage in the garden.....

A perfect example of evergreen and deciduous trees particularly at this time of the year – Eucalyptus is evergreen and copper beech is deciduous...



Subway continue to support our schools growing work



# Schools growing work



# The wonders of nature – seed dispersal.....

Here you can see lots of poppy seed heads, to think that poppy seed is so tiny, yet it produces a stunning flower and will disperse its seed anywhere.



## Poppy Seed



# Seed dispersal..



## **Fruit bushes planted.....**

Here you can see that we have planted six new blackcurrant bushes.....

The bushes have been planted into holes made in the weed suppressant membrane, this membrane has been laid to deter or hopefully stop any weeds from growing taking away the nutrients that the bushes will need.

Hopefully these fruit bushes will provide a bountiful crop of fruit come the summer ready to harvest and enjoy.....



## **Blackcurrant bushes planted.....**



**Lots of fruit in the garden areas.....**

**Here you can see some of the fruit trees that we have planted.....**



## **Tree planting**



**Fruit bushes.....**

**Blackcurrant bushes x 6**

**Fruit tree orchard.....**

**Apple trees x 10**

**Bramley / Discovery / Cox**

**Damson trees x 2**

**Lots of fresh fruit...**



## **Spring bulb planting work has been completed.....**



**We have completed another big spring flowering bulb planting programme which all being well will provide some spectacular spring colour. Tulips, crocuses and lots of different daffodil varieties have all been planted in and around the orchard area.....**

**Bulbs making lots of growth.....**



**After planting hundreds of spring flowering bulbs before Christmas, we are starting to see lots of growth from these bulbs.**

**Hopefully over the next few months we should be able to see lots of colour..**

**Spring Flowering  
Bulbs.....**

## **Hazel Trees have Catkins.....**



**Here you can see our Hazel trees that have catkins – catkins are long thin clusters of flowers that do not have petals...**

**Pollination takes place by wind as the catkins carry lots of yellow pollen.....**

**Wind  
Pollination**



# School making a concerted effort to help nature...

President Kennedy School is making a concerted effort to help and to provide an environment to help nature. Bat Boxes have been set up in several trees around the school site, Insect Hotels have been set up in different areas of the garden space.....



**Bat Boxes.....**

**Insect Hotels.....**

**Helping Nature.....**

**Another bug hotel build has begun.....**



Here you can see the continuation of the latest bug hotel build with clay pipes and wood drilled with holes to provide shelter for insects.





## Dead Hedge built.....

Another way that you can help nature and a way that costs absolutely nothing, but at the same time uses up any unwanted vegetation is to build a dead hedge – a space that wildlife will inhabit and use for shelter. Very easy to build, over a period of time the vegetation will eventually break down adding nutrients back into the soil plus it has created a natural looking boundary too.....



## So many ways we are helping nature.....

We have set up so many different things to assist nature, the nature we are encouraging will in turn help our garden and growing space – bird boxes, bat boxes, solitary bee nesters and bug hotels are all in place.....

## Spring flowering bulbs are flowering.....

It is always heartening to see the first of the spring or should I say late winter flower bulbs, snowdrops are usually the first to flower closely followed by crocuses. Either way, the sight of some colour brings some much-needed cheer at

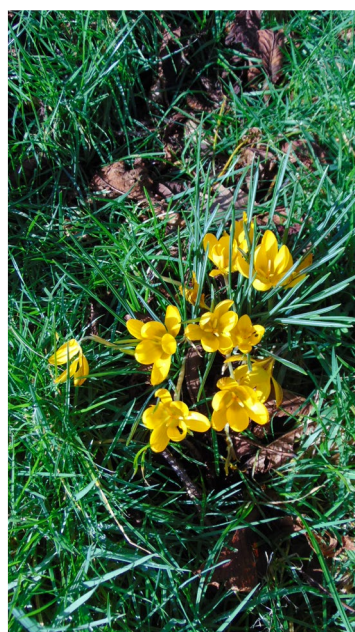
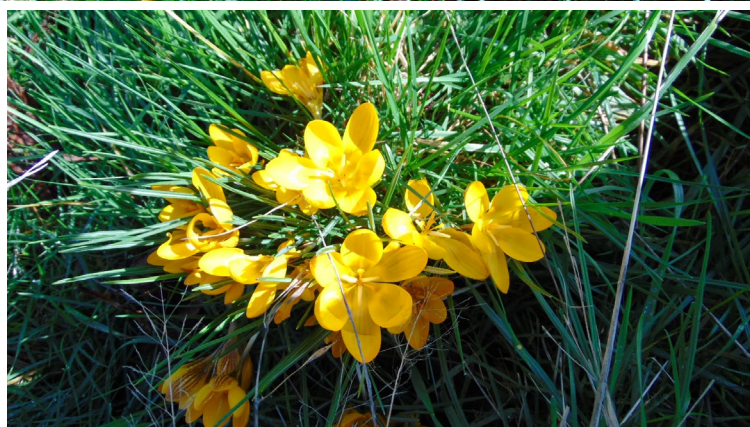


Early daffodils.....



# Splendid winter colour.....

Below you can see a selection of beautiful crocuses, now these are not any old crocuses but they hold a lot of significance because these crocuses are flowering at the site of the original President Kennedy School frontage..  
Planted all around the huge horse chestnut tree that is at the school front entrance.....



Photographs taken on  
Monday February 12<sup>th</sup>  
2024

It would be interesting to know when these crocus  
bulbs were first planted?.....

## Gorgeous colours

## Stunning crocuses.....



## Planting work continuing.....

Below you can see some of the planting work that we have already done and some planting work that we have just started. Below left you can see garlic that we have planted in the poly tunnel making some strong growth and then you can see a tris of onions that we are starting to plant out.....

A tris of onions effectively means that we are planting red, white and golden onions – also, this year we have planted the onions into a piece of ground that has been covered over with cardboard to suppress any weed growth so that all of the goodness is used by the onions not the weeds.....



# Garlic...



# Tris of Onions



## **New developments coming soon.....**

We are continuing to develop the Echo Eternal Curriculum Garden Space with plenty of new areas that are being built, developed, added to, ultimately, we are trying to create a space that will be a lasting legacy with plenty of tree planting taking place plus a massive flower bulb planting programme has also taken place. Bulbs will naturalise and create lots of colour over the years just as the crocuses that were planted at the front of the "old" school. Below you can see another area that we are currently developing and planting up.....

Plus, another garden development that is being funded by Smart Learner Driving School is being researched before planting takes place.....



**New garden area set up....**

**Watch for developments.**

**Smart Learner Driving School  
working in partnership with  
President Kennedy School**

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