

The 3 Peas Newsletter

(Pupils Protecting the Planet)

September 2019



Healthy Living

This term pupils from Mrs Harding's class and members of Eco Club planted cress, tomatoes and peas.

Once the cress was ready pupils took them home to enjoy eating with their family.

Pupils got to take their young peas and tomato plants home so that they could watch them grow, repot them and eat the produce.



In Biology, the GCSE students have been learning about a balance diet. They have studied different food groups and how they help the body in different ways. They have also learned about deficiency diseases e.g.: scurvy from lack of vitamin C and rickets from a lack of vitamin D. They learnt about how different people would have different dietary requirements, e.g.: a runner would need a lot more carbohydrates than an office worker as they are more active. Some runners may need to eat protein rich foods or take protein supplements to help repair tissues and muscles.

Biodiversity

Sayes Court Farm



Primary School pupils had another trip to Sayes Court Farm. They made seed bombs containing a variety of wild seeds. In a bowl, pupils mixed seeds and clay. They then slowly added in water and rolled the mixture into firm balls and left them to dry. These seed bombs could be planted out in soil at home. Hopefully by planting more wildflowers in gardens more bees, butterflies and other insects will visit.

The pupils also dissected owl pellets. Owl pellets are the regurgitated remains of an owl's meal, including all the bones of the animal it ate. Owls usually swallow their food whole, digest the edible parts, and then expel the indigestible parts through their mouth as a pellet. By looking at the bones in the pellet, pupils with the help of some wildlife experts were able to discover what the owls were eating. This helped them learn what prey was currently available for the owls.

At the beginning of the Summer holidays Tilda, Rufus and Tallulah returned to Sayes Court farm for more nature activities. They took part in a bug hunt using sweep nets that collect insects and other invertebrates from long grass. Collecting this data on bugs helps Avon Wildlife Trust learn about the biodiversity of bugs at Sayes Court Farm.

Sunflowers and Marigolds

Members of eco club and Mrs Harding's class planted Sunflowers seeds. Sunflowers are great to have in the garden because their showy large outer petals help attract bees and the centre of the sunflower houses hundreds and thousands of tiny individual florets that contain nectar and pollen to feed the bees. Once the sunflowers had grown enough to repot, pupils planted a few in the school garden and some pupils planted them in their home gardens. Ella sent in these lovely photos of her sunflower.



Early Years students and Key stage 1 students helped Mrs Gulliford to plant marigolds in the school's front garden. They also helped do some weeding.

Succulent cutting

Early Years students and Key Stage 1 took cuttings from two types of succulent plants (echevria and aloe vera). They then planted them in new pots. Hopefully the new plants will continue to grow successfully



Science

Key Stage 2 learnt about trees in science. They took a trip to Wapley Bushes nature reserve to identify the different trees there by looking at the trees leaves, shape and seeds. They identified several trees including Ash, Oak and Maple. They also learnt about bird migration.

Marine

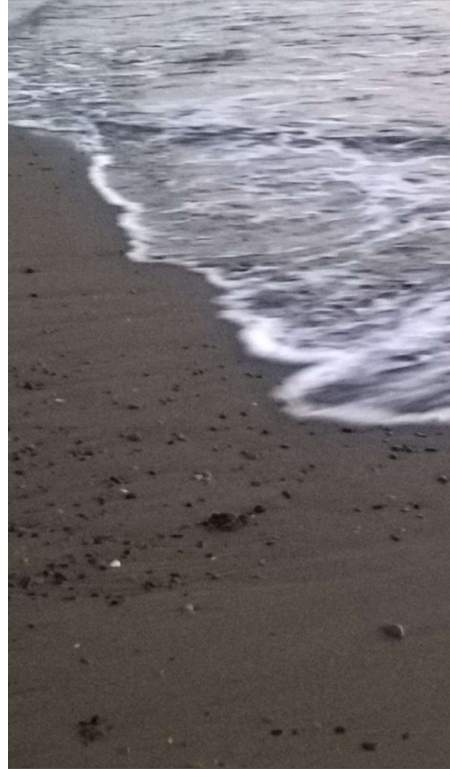
GCSE Geography

In Geography the GCSE students have looked at coastal erosion and coastal management. They looked at how headlands and bays were formed, arches/stacks/stumps were formed and the different types of rocks. They then looked at how different marine processes effect the coast. The students went on a field trip to Dunraven bay to see some of these effects for themselves.

The students learnt about human causes of coastal erosion and how this effects people. The four outcomes of this were: settlements, tourism, infrastructure and agriculture. Climate change is having a large impact on coastal erosion, the sea levels have risen. A warmer climate causes ice sheets and glaciers to melt, leading to cliffs collapsing, increasing coastal recession and areas of soft rock along the coast erode easier due to more frequent and violent storms.

The GCSE Geography students studied a unit on rivers. One of the sections in this unit looked at human causes of flooding such as deforestation and urbanisation. Deforestation takes away the natural system where trees intercept and absorb water preventing flooding.

Urbanisation increases the number of impermeable surfaces in areas which can cause excess surface run off, causing flooding.



Baby Turtle Rescue

During the summer, Tilda and her family saw baby turtles being helped to reach the sea by volunteers on a beach in Cyprus. Both loggerhead and green turtles lay their eggs on beaches in Cyprus. The green turtle is classified as an endangered species and the loggerhead is classified as vulnerable. This conservation work is vital as hatchlings have very low rates of surviving into adulthood. Volunteers help protect nest from predators and increase the number of hatchlings that reach the sea.



Coral Reefs

Members of eco club learnt about coral reefs and how an increasing number are suffering from coral bleaching. Next term we are planning on holding an assembly to tell the rest of the school about the things we have learnt about.

Litter

All pupils have done an excellent job of keeping the school grounds litter free. Whenever litter has blown into the playground it has been quickly removed using the school litter pickers.

Waste

Parents and pupils have reduced waste by handing down uniforms and other clothes to younger pupils.

Some pupils have also brought in their empty crisp packets they have collected over the summer holidays so that they can be taken by members of the eco club to a local recycling point.

Other Eco Topics

30 Days Wild

In June the school took part in the Wildlife Trust 30 days wild challenge. Some activities were carried out in school and others were carried out by pupils outside of school hours. Wild activities included Raffie spotting newts at Willsbridge Mills, George taking a riverside walk and spotting fish, Molly and Charlie going bird spotting, Rufus and Tilda visiting Tubbs Bottom woodland and looking at a wildflower meadow, Luke watching the birds nesting in his bird box and Daniel visiting Sand dunes in Wales.

Avon Wildlife Trust Volunteering

Molly spent 3 days volunteering at Avon Wildlife Trust during half term and the summer holidays. She helped the trust prepare for the Festival of Nature, took part in bat detecting, weeding and harvesting fruits and vegetables.

Bats

At the beginning of September Alfie, Molly and Charlie enjoyed a Bat Walk with local wildlife expert Steve England. They walked along the river by Lincombe Barn in Downend armed with bat detectors. A bat detector is a device used to detect the presence of bats by converting their echolocation ultrasound signals, as they are emitted by the bats, to audible frequencies. The first bat to be spotted was a daubenton bat that was feeding over the river. The bat detectors were so good that the group were able to hear each time the bat successfully caught a moth or other insect. Steve shared lots of fascinating facts about the 16 species of bat found in the UK. The group also managed to detect the common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle and noctule bat. As a bonus the group got to hear some tawny owls too.

