



Lantern Lane Garden Gang

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Issue 1



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Time to GET GREEN at Lantern Lane

The time has come to GET GREEN at Lantern Lane Primary School. Over the next year, we are looking to develop opportunities for everyone to get involved in recycling and gardening activities. We aim to grow plants from seeds and cuttings, develop our teamwork, encourages a better and healthier lifestyle, learn about the environment and sustainability and help each other to engage with our surroundings and develop a sense of responsibility. Hopefully, we will also be able to enjoy all the different produce we decide to grow. We also aim to start a gardening club that all pupils will be welcome to come along to.



Follow the tin can and see some plant magic on page

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Building a Green greenhouse takes a lot of bottle.

Recycling 1200 bottles into a greenhouse and the challenge ahead.

Mr. Thomas saw one of these in a photo and thought it would be a challenge worth taking on to build a greenhouse out of 2 litre plastic bottles with the pupils of Lantern Lane.

We all know how important it is to recycle as many materials as we can to help the environment and also give children the right message about doing their bit to save the planet. So, by building a greenhouse by recycling bottles, we will be able to teach the children the importance of recycling whilst also growing food at school.

Mr. Thomas did some maths (probably with his tongue out as he was thinking) and worked out that we would need somewhere in the region of 1200 bottles.

Just before the Christmas holidays, he sent the message out that he needed help collecting bottles. It wasn't long before they came pouring in and on Friday 17th January, the target was well and truly in sight as the children and their families had sent in over 1000 bottles. Word had spread about the project and parents had even been collecting bottles in their workplaces and sending the in to

help the efforts. It's fair to say Mr. Thomas has been blown away by the response.

Repairing The Raised Beds

As part of his presentation to become Bley house captain, Joshua D in year 6 pledged that he would try to get the school raised beds repaired and back in working order. He has been working very hard and has sent out many emails to local companies asking for help. The responses he has received have been very generous and the hard work he has put in has certainly given us a great start. Well done, Josh.

An application for funding from Rushcliffe Borough Council's Rushcliffe Roots programme was successful. This means we can order materials and begin our building so we can make the most of the growing season ahead!! Many thanks to Mrs. Moss for pointing in the right direction for the possible funding.



The Year 5 Pelargonium Experiment



Taking Cuttings

Step One

Find a strong stem without any flowers on.

Step Two

Cut the stem just below a pair of leaves. Then cut the leaves off until there are only two or three left. Cut plants only need a couple of leaves to provide the plant with the food it needs to regrow and develop new roots.

Step Three

Put the cutting in a cup of water and place it in a sunny place on a windowsill.

Watch carefully for a few weeks and check that the water doesn't become cloudy. Replace the water every now and again.

Eventually, after between 4 to 6 weeks, the cutting will grow roots.

During the autumn term, year 5 pupils began an experiment to see if they could take cuttings from one plant and grow them into new plants. At the end of the summer, Mr. Thomas was sad to see his beautiful pelargoniums begin to wither and lose their wonderful leaves and flowers. So he brought them in and, with the help of the year 5 pupils, began an experiment to see if successful cuttings could be taken from them.

They cut the plants following the instructions (see left). The results were surprising and the pupils found 3 things happened to the cutting they took.

Some grew flowers instead of roots. This was because the plant was trying to find insects to pollinate it.



Others died and were unsuccessful. Many grew successful root systems and the pupils have now potted these on by planting them in compost. The picture next to the title shows some of the successful plants.

By taking cutting from Mr. Thomas's plants, we have now made 15 new plants to put into the school gardens. Taking cuttings is a good way to keep gardening cheap and it was fascinating watching each one grow and develop in different ways.

Is it a Tin Can? No it's a Plant Pot!



Mrs. Chettle and Mrs. Evans have been working with a group of keen young gardeners who have been learning to take everyday items and turn them into something far more useful.

The children started with a tin can that used to hold, baked beans, tomatoes and other food. They washed the tins out and were very careful to avoid any sharp bits. Their teacher put some drainage holes into the bottom of the tins so water could drain out.

Following this, the gang painted designs onto their tin can to make each one look more decorative than the plain metal. They used a mix of paint and PVA glue so that the designs would last longer.



Once the paint had dried, the team filled their tins with compost but left enough room to put their herbs into. All that was left to do was water the herbs. What a super piece of recycling!



Plant Magic

How to turn one plant into more with just your thumbs!

We bought some herbs from the supermarket. We chose chives and basil. But, we only had 4 plants and there were 6 of us. To solve the problem, this is what we did.

- 1 **Take the plant out of its pot.**
- 2 **Divide the plant carefully with your thumbs.**
We carefully pushed our thumbs into the soil around the roots and pulled the plant gently into two pieces. We did this again to make 4 new plants.



- 3 **Plant the divided pieces into our tin cans.**

We did this carefully so that we did not damage the roots because the plant needs these to hold the plant in place and help it to take in nutrients from the soil.

