



Shared School Woodland Project

You will hopefully be aware that your school is involved with planting a new community woodland in nearby Chalford. There are eight schools involved including Bisley, Brimscombe, Christchurch Chalford, Minchinhampton, Oakridge, Rodborough, Thomas Keble and Thrupp.

Known as the Shared School Woodland Scheme, the project aims to increase the children's awareness about how planting trees can help tackle climate change. The woodland will provide a physical space where groups of school children can meet, talk, share ideas and express their opinions. It will provide many outdoor learning opportunities. Individual schools will be able to act as a collective whole and do something for the better good of the environment, as well as making a valid contribution to the local community.

Fundraising

There is a currently a fundraising campaign running to help raise money for the new school woodland that your child/children are helping to plant. See link below:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/shared-school-woodland-stroud-1>

Here is a summary of what we need to buy:

- 250 tree guards for deer
- 250 stakes for tree guards
- 250 mulch mats
- 1000 pegs
- 25 rolls of netting to protect the wildlife hedge
- 1 barn owl box
- 12 bat boxes, 4 bird boxes
- 12 honeysuckle plants
- 12 oak saplings
- 8 children's spades
- 2 pairs of loppers
- 30 pairs of children's gardening gloves
- 3 pairs of adult gardening gloves
- 2 pairs of secateurs
- 1 storage box for tools.

Any money you, your friends and family can give will make a real difference so please share the link on social media sites, word of mouth etc. If you know someone who does a lot of flying and wants to ease their conscience by offsetting their carbon footprint - show them this link!! The project is a great initiative. This is



the children's opportunity to do their bit so please get behind them and show your support. Every donation, no matter how small, will go a long way in helping us reach our target.

If you are interested in sponsoring a tree, perhaps in memory of a loved one, please get in touch with me using the details at the bottom of this letter. All money raised will go towards our fundraising target.

Once the woodland becomes established, children from all the schools involved will be able to return to the site for forest school lessons and other educational activities. There will be many opportunities for the children to continue to be involved with the maintenance of the site. All of the primary schools involved are feeder schools into Thomas Keble and so the hope is that, through cross over lessons with each other, some of the children will be able to forge relationships prior to starting at secondary school, thus aiding the transition.

For more information about the project please read the following blogs:

<https://www.fromtheground.co.uk/blog-posts-02/2019/11/28/school-community-woodland-project>

<https://www.fromtheground.co.uk/blog-posts-02/2020/2/10/shared-school-woodland-scheme-update>

Tree Planting Family Prep Day: Saturday 14th March

All welcome. Tasks will involve removal of wire netting and broken fencing and creation of a new seating area. There will be refreshments and a BBQ. It will be a great opportunity to become familiar with the site and a lovely way to meet other parents and teachers from all the different schools.

Tree Planting: Monday 23rd March – Friday 3rd April

Children from all schools involved will be invited to attend a tree planting session during school time.

Finally, a big thank you to everyone who has got behind the scheme so far. Please do show your support, if you can, by making a donation and coming along to the family day. The project promises to be an invaluable learning initiative for all our children and a great opportunity to bring the community together.

Many thanks
Gill Thomas (parent at Oakridge School)

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