

# GREEN VISION NEWS

*'Look deep into nature and then you will understand everything better'*

Albert Einstein

## BEAVERS NO LONGER EXTINCT IN THE UK



Read all  
about it on  
page 3!

SUMMER TERM 2022  
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INSPIRES  
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A LOOK AT  
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OUR TWO  
GREEN  
CHARITIES





## WHITE ON GREEN

*Roving reporter Mikey interviews governor Gavin White about green initiatives at Port Regis...*

I had the pleasure of interviewing Gavin White, a governor of Port Regis, about the green future of our school. Gavin is a father of four children who all went to Port Regis, and one of them - Jack White - was also a gap!

**Mikey:** Hi Gavin, what do you think is the green future for Port Regis?

Gavin: The green future of Port Regis is that we want to be Carbon neutral by 2030.

**Mikey:** Where do you see Port Regis in the next 20 years?

Gavin: Well, in 2015 we produced 1000 tonnes of carbon dioxide which is equivalent to 50,000 trees. 43% of this was gas, 34% electricity, 20% oil and the rest diesel. But by 2030 we will only have produced 500 tonnes of carbon because we hope to have 3 large new solar panels and we hope to be more fuel efficient. To become carbon zero, we will have to invest in ground source heating, for that we need to drill fifteen holes in the ground that are 80 metres deep.

**Mikey:** How do you feel the sustainability project is going?

Gavin: I think we are doing amazing things. The energy group is making good progress. The plastics group run by Mr Murray has got rid of huge amounts of plastics around the school. The waste group has received a bio-digester, which is where we put all our food waste and it turns it into compost (fertiliser). As well as other initiatives that you might be able to read about in this newspaper. I think it is going well, do you?

**Mikey:** Yes, I do too. What is your message to the Eco groups and all the budding ecologists in our school?

Gavin: Everybody has to take responsibility for this not just the groups, every child and member of staff, because you can't just sit and watch, you have to do something to help.

**Mikey:** As you said everybody has to take responsibility, what do you think we can do to help?

Gavin: Turn lights off, turn computers off, don't waste food. Ask questions about why we are using plastics and so on.

**Mikey:** Are there any green issues you are personally passionate about?

Gavin: I am personally passionate about clean energy, because the sun is such a wonderful resource, we don't need to make energy and burn fossil fuels.

**Mikey:** One very important final question - Do you think your football team (Liverpool) will do the quadruple?

That was my interview with Gavin White, I hope you enjoyed reading it!

*Written by Mikey P-M*



## FROM THE SEED OF AN IDEA...

In September 2018 I asked for permission to run an assembly following the COP conference in Katowice. At this conference pledges that were given in at the 2016 COP Paris gathering were discussed and new pledges made. I asked for the school to make our own pledges and step forward with a new more sustainable directive. I have not, in the years that followed, been disappointed. Despite COVID, Port Regis has moved forwards in many areas. We have solar panels on 2 of our buildings. We have changed over our lighting systems and we have increased planting of wild flowers. I actually wrote a report that highlighted 24 changes that have been made from 2018 -2021.

This year we are able to refocus our green drive and have re-established our Eco committee. Already ideas are flowing from the children and we have many exciting initiatives planned. We are aiming to be a plastic free school as defined by the Surfers Against Sewage charity. We have more solar panels arriving. We will be growing our own salads, planted and cared for by our pupils. We will be installing a digester to reuse all of kitchen waste.

This is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the proposals. We aim to apply for green flag status in 2023 and see this a further step towards our whole community becoming more sustainable. The work and enthusiasm from the children has driven this forwards and gives me great encouragement that the future now looks more hopeful.

*Written by Mr Hardy  
Head of Science*

*Mr Hardy and the Energy  
Eco Committee*

## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to our very first Port Regis Green Vision Newspaper. The children have been at the heart of all the content. A group of budding journalists from the Eco Communications Team have been hard at work writing their pieces ready for publication. We also have some feature writers from the Alpha A Form scholarship class. Staff have provided further content, with snippets of news from around the school to more in-depth stories.

Port Regis has a long legacy of caring for and learning about the environment. Recently, I was thrilled to discover in our school archives a magazine called 'Save Our World' created by PR pupils in 1989. As it states boldly in our newly written school Vision, PR continues to strive to be a 'culture that embeds in every child a sense of wonder for the natural world and a responsibility to preserve it.'

Happy reading!

Jemima Mills





# PORT REGIS' ENERGY PLAN: WHAT ARE WE DOING?



**'THE OLD LIGHTS HAVE BEEN REMOVED READY TO GO TO A COMPANY WHO WILL RECYCLE ALL THE COMPONENTS'**

In the last five years, Port Regis has been making changes to its energy usage, making it a more eco-friendly school. The most noticeable changes have been the introduction of solar panels on the roofs of Queen's and Cunningham, as well as the switching from traditional light bulbs to cheaper to operate LEDs (Light Emitting Diodes or simply, more effective forms of light bulbs). I talked to Kevin Binns, our school bursar, who has given me interesting information regarding the new changes.

I asked Mr Binns, what else is being added, and what will these changes do? Firstly, more solar paneling has been scheduled to be built on Upward, Centenary Hall and hopefully Jowett Sports Hall. In the future, this could generate up to 80% of the school's electricity needs. As well as this, all of the classrooms, utility rooms, foyers and corridors will be fitted with LEDs, which are 15 times more efficient than our normal light bulbs, and their lower running costs will help fund other projects. These developments are targeted for completion by the end of the Summer Holidays of 2022. Although vehicles such as the school minibuses and ground vehicles won't immediately be replaced by electric alternatives, practical tools like the school leaf-blowers, grass cutters and hedge trimmers are now being recharged by electricity generated by the solar panels around the school. Furthermore, gas usage is being monitored and is expected to be reduced in the future.

I asked Mr Binns if making these changes are worth it? He said they should be, as they allow the school to save more money, which can be spent elsewhere. They allow us to use more advanced technology used in classrooms, so pupils can benefit the most from their education. It lowers the school's carbon footprint, which with Global Warming becoming more of an issue, is important for both us and the world around us. Finally, it sets an example for the students to follow throughout their life - helping the environment.

Although these are beneficial in the long term, they do have some drawbacks. For example, the operation of adding more solar panels and switching to LED lighting would cost money to install and the tools used may not be good for the environment. Also, if more changes are planned, they might overrun the holidays.

In the long term, making these changes



*The old lighting that has been removed and is ready to be recycled*

would be beneficial as it is important to contribute to our planet and humanity, instead of just the school in the short term. The most important thing everyone can do though, is to raise awareness of our energy usage - Mr Binns recommended that pupils try to lose bad habits such as opening windows while the heating is on. Other examples could be remembering to turn off lights when you're the last to leave a room or turn off computer screen monitors and smart-boards. This does seem less important at first but does alter energy usage, especially if a whole school does these - small measures create great change!



*Written by Digby H*

## BIRD BOX WATCHING IS THE NEW SCREEN TIME

At Port Regis we have built a bird box with a CCTV camera inside it. It is situated in a large pine tree behind the Ecology Hut. The picture from the camera travels through a wire to a screen inside the hut which is powered from a solar panel on top of the hut. When you press (that is the first word I ever said!) a button the screen comes on for 4 minutes. At the beginning of term we could see that a nest had been built inside the hut, and then we saw a coal tit bird sitting on the nest. Soon we were able to see about 6 eggs. We saw the mummy or daddy bird sitting on the eggs for ages. We can go into the Ecology Hut in break times to check. Then one day they had all hatched and we could see their little open beaks waiting to be fed. We saw the mummy and daddy bird coming in and out of the bird box with food for the chicks. We also saw the mum disposing of the 'poo'. The baby bird turned over and pooped and the mum carried it away. The tiny chicks soon grew feathers and after about 3 weeks they had flown away to start their new life! We wonder if another bird will take up the nest. Our head groundsman Rory Pope installed the bird box with his team. He even had to reinforce the box one day because a squirrel had tried

to attack it and get in. I interviewed Mr Pope to ask him all about birds. He has put up several other bird boxes at Port Regis - 6 big ones and 22 small ones. There are 2 large owl boxes that have been installed on the woodland edge and in Forest School, as well as a bat box. Our new doves are still in their big cage in the dovecote but they are going to be let out at half term. The rarest birds Mr Pope has seen at Port Regis are a kite and a barn owl. They are also his favourites. Once he saw a buzzard carry a grass snake away! There is also a 'charm' (family or group) of goldfinches on West Field, and plenty of woodpeckers.



*Written by Zak T*



## HOUSEKEEPING TEAM SOURCE SUSTAINABLE SOAP



Our Green Vision Eco groups who look after plastics talked to our Head of Housekeeping Tracey about sourcing more eco friendly soap. Tracey has sourced a brilliant and affordable solution. Around the school there are 40 hand soap dispensers, they are covered in plastic and the refills also come in plastic cartons. The new soap however comes in a little sachet in powder form. The sachet is dropped into water and the sachet dissolves and the powder mixes with the water and with a

good shake it makes foam which is the soap. The sachets are also delivered in a cardboard box which is totally recyclable and takes up so much less space and Tracey only needs to order it every three months, instead of once a month. This also reduces transport and fuel cost. And it is cheaper! The new foam soap does not harm the environment. Tracey is continuing to look into replacing other cleaning products for her large team of amazing cleaners to use around the school. More to come!

*Written by Florence F*

### DID YOU KNOW?

One bird you may not hear, but is probably singing, is the goldcrest (Regulus regulus). Their song is quiet and can be so high-pitched that some people have difficulty hearing it!





First rewilding garden created at Chelsea Flower Show

LOOK WHO'S BEAVERING AWAY ON OUR BANKS

In May, Lower School enjoyed an exciting morning on a beaver safari at 42 Acres in Somerset, a local rewilding project. The morning was lead by Lulu & Petra from Urquhart & Hunt, a landscape and design company, who have become beaver experts as they are designing the very first rewilding garden at Chelsea Flower Show this year and reconstructing a beaver dam. A few years ago 16 beavers were introduced into the landscape at 42 Acres where they have helped restore the natural landscape, reduce flooding naturally, improve water quality and regenerate natural wildlife habitats boosting biodiversity.

On the banks of the first very small lake area the children immediately spotted a big dam the beavers' had made with sticks and branches they had felled, and mud they had slapped on top with their paddle like tail - these animals have all the skills of a top engineer!



AT PORT REGIS WE ARE  
REWILDING LARGE  
SWATHES ALONG EDGES  
OF MOWN GRASS AND  
WOODLAND TO CREATE  
WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

The children then went on the hunt for sticks with markings on from the beavers' large teeth and they did some brilliant observational drawings of the nature.

Around the large lake the children discovered the beavers' home - their lodge. The children had to be very quiet so as not to disturb the sleeping beavers, but could see the elaborate construction the beavers had made. The beavers are amazing architects as they build different floors within their home so they can have different temperatures on each floor, and they build a mini swimming pool within the lodge for their babies to learn to swim in!

The children explored the woodland to find the extraordinary way beavers work with trees - expert arboriculturalists! We found lots of chewed branches that the beavers had carefully felled with their sharp teeth, as well as a couple of very large trees which take two months for the beavers to fell.

Lulu co-runs Urquhart & Hunt and had been invited to design their first garden at Chelsea Flower Show - a re-wilding garden. They reconstructed a beaver dam and landscape. The children helped collect wood chewed by the beavers for the garden. Their garden not only won a gold medal but also 'Best in Show' - Congratulations!

THE BEAVERS ARE BACK!

On Wednesday 27th April, E and F Form from Port Regis went to visit 42 Acres, a rewilding project in Somerset. They went to educate themselves more about rewilding and endangered species such as beavers. They learnt about these water-dwelling mammals by exploring their natural habitat.

Beavers have been reintroduced back to England after 400 years of absence. When the group of students arrived, they met three lovely people named Simon, Lulu and Petra, who work together to run 42 Acres. Beavers are also known as architects of the wild and mother nature's builders. Beavers help rewild other species of birds and mammals. The group of students explored the overnight activity and effects of the beavers. They spotted pathways, the felling of trees and branches, and building dams. Simon said, "These beavers keep me busy," as the beavers rebuild the dams if Simon has to clear them away. Beavers have a positive impact on land as they help stop flooding by building dams. The children observed the way beavers had chewed on trees to produce wood for their lodges.


This group of students is planning to return at a later date to learn even more about these intelligent, nocturnal creatures. For more information, search for beavers on the woodland trust website. Thank you Simon, Lulu and Petra for a wonderful day!

Written by Michelle O



RTIMES

EAGER BEAVER!



(An owner of this site says "These beavers keep me busy!" as the beavers rebuild the dams after he has cleared them away). Simon, Lulu and Petra own the site and after nearly 400 years of absence have reintroduced beavers to 42 acres in Somerset. The Lower School children collected evidence of beaver life such as gnawed sticks to help Lulu and Petra make a wonderful garden for mother nature's builders, beavers. The class also observed the impacts of the wonderful, eco 42 acres.

On Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April, the Lower School went to visit 42 acres to educate themselves more about endangered beavers. They learnt about these water-dwelling mammals by exploring their habitat.

Beavers have a positive impact on the land as they help to stop flooding by building dams. The class observed the way beavers had chewed trees to produce wood for their lodges and food from the bark. They also saw the effects of the overnight activity of the beavers, such as pathways, felling of trees and building dams. Simon

This group of students is planning to learn even more about these intelligent, nocturnal creatures. For more information, search for beavers on the Woodland Trust website. Thank you Lulu, Simon and Petra for a wonderful inspiring trip. by Marina

By Marina P

Urquhart & Hunt's design for Chelsea Flower Show to find out more visit [urquharthunt.com](http://urquharthunt.com) or [rewildingbritain.org.uk](http://rewildingbritain.org.uk)



Lulu from Urquhart & Hunt





Port Regis is supporting two green charities

## HORATIO'S GARDEN

Earlier this year Port Regis was thrilled to welcome the founder of Horatio's Garden, Olivia Chapple, to talk to all the school in our Saturday assembly. Horatio's Garden is a national charity creating and nurturing beautiful gardens in NHS spinal injury centres to support people who are affected by spinal injury. Not only do they create beautiful gardens they also grow thriving communities to support patients, their families and friends, facing long stays in NHS hospitals as they adjust to, or care for someone with a life-changing injury. The charity is named after Olivia's son, Horatio Chapple, a volunteer who had the original idea of creating a beautiful garden in a space away from the wards for patients and their families.



The gardens aim to be inspiring places which through their design champion the benefits of gardens to health. Being in contact with a natural environment really improves people's sense of wellbeing. We remember Olivia Chapple telling us at our Saturday assembly about one patient who had only been able to look at the hospital ceiling for months and was suddenly able to be wheeled outside in their bed and see the sky, the trees and the birds flying for the first time since their injury. This had been a significant moment in helping with their recovery. We also had an assembly talk by a Port Regis parent, Helen Bull, who suffered a spinal injury and was based in Salisbury hospital for many months. She gave a very inspiring talk about making the most of life in every situation, and how she wished the garden had existed during her hospital stay.

## 'THE PORT REGIS CHOIR WILL BE MAKING THEIR FIRST VISIT TO THE ORIGINAL HORATIO'S GARDEN IN SALISBURY IN JUNE'



To date, Horatio's Gardens have opened in five hospitals, in Salisbury, Glasgow, Stoke Mandeville, Oswestry and London. They are currently building a new garden in Cardiff and are also developing a seventh garden in Northern Ireland. In time, they plan to bring Horatio's Garden to all the 11 spinal injury centres in the UK.

The gardens not only provide a beautiful natural environment for the patients, they are also community hubs, bustling with volunteers, creative workshops, special events and afternoon teas. Port Regis children will be making their first visit to the very first Horatio's Garden in Salisbury in June as the choir will be singing there.

As a school community we have started our fundraising with the very first Port Regis Dog Show. We will continue to fundraise in a variety of ways in the months ahead and support this inspiring charity in any way we can, including adding to the list of volunteers. To find out more about the charity go to [www.horatiogarden.org.uk](http://www.horatiogarden.org.uk).

*Written by Elaine & Elissa A*

### DID YOU KNOW?

The World Land Trust and its overseas project partners have been instrumental in the purchase and protection of more than 2,222,247 acres of tropical forest and other threatened habitats, and together ensure that more than four million acres of land is managed under active protection worldwide.



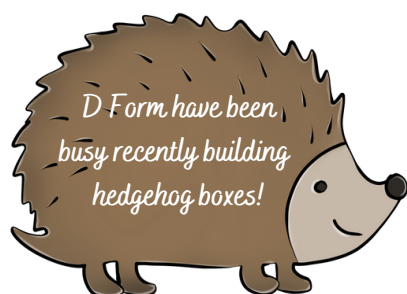
## THE WORLD LAND TRUST

The World Land Trust (WLT) is an international conservation charity that protects the world's most biologically significant and threatened habitats. By protecting the land they are also protecting the animals that live in it. Their mission is to protect the precious ecosystems of the world and raise awareness around the world about how important they are.

In order to ensure these conservation projects are viable in the long term the World Land Trust works with local people and communities on the ground who live and work in the areas that need protecting. They are helping local people help protect these areas and that is part of its success.

'IN A WORLD WHERE WILDLIFE IS STRUGGLING TO SURVIVE I TAKE HEART IN THE FACT THAT WLT AND THEIR LOCAL PARTNERS ARE GOING TO SAVE AS MUCH OF THE PLANET AS THEY CAN.'

DAVID ATTENBOROUGH



Their mission is to protect the most threatened habitats and species for the future. They work in more than 30 countries around the world and have helped many conservation projects from the African elephant, Bornean orangutan, hummingbirds, gorillas and much more. They have helped protect many areas of the world including parts of the rainforest in Brazil, Mexico's ancient forests, Tanzania's coastal forests, Ecuador's forest in the sky and much more. Sir David Attenborough has been their patron since 2003.

The World Land Trust launches varied and regular appeals. In 2022 they have already launched an appeal to protect a green corridor for local people's livelihood and wildlife in the Garo Hills in India, an Indian elephant appeal, a South Africa natural reserve full of giraffe as well as an appeal to protect the puma in Patagonia and the Caucasian leopard. Their website is full of amazing information including a live webcam from the rainforest. Go to [www.worldlandtrust.org](http://www.worldlandtrust.org) to find out more.

*Written by Willa G-L*





# 'TAILS' FROM THE PORT REGIS DOG SHOW



Our school has a long tradition of supporting charities over the years but this year the charity committee have chosen some extra special ones which have special links with the environment. We have chosen Horatio's Garden because it is a local and national charity where nature nurtures those who have long stays in hospital. We have also chosen the World Land Trust, an international conservation charity that protects the world's most biologically significant and threatened habitats.

Our very first fundraising event for these two charities was our most amazing Port Regis Dog Show and Car Boot Sale. With 130 dogs entered in 10 different categories it was a busy morning. We had rosettes for the scruffiest dog, cutest dog, waggiest tail, best puppy, best rescue dog, best golden oldie, best costume, agility and dog that looked most like its owner. The founder of Horatio's Garden Olivia Chapple gave out the prizes, and her son Magnus, Horatio's brother was an honorary judge.



*Written by Bea M*

Our very own dog lover Mrs Cardozo and qualified vet Mrs Webb were the other two judges, and we were brilliantly entertained by the commentary of Mr Webb for the show. Lots of children picked up a bargain from the car boot sale and the Friends of Port Regis' second-hand sale. Pre-Prep organised a cake sale and the charity team set up a teddy tombola. There was delicious eco roasted coffee and soup and sausage rolls outside for all. Mr May auctioned a marvellous yellow tricycle for Horatio's Garden that had been lovingly restored by his students in Design & Technology hobby. That alone raised £220. Overall, we managed to raise over £1750 which will be divided between our two charities. There are many more events planned still to come. An Autumn Fete, is planned for next term and our games staff are taking on the Three Peaks Challenge in August.

We support lots of other charities over the year too - Odd Sock Day, dress up for Red Nose Day, we hold a coffee morning and wear green for Macmillan too. Infact we have just raised over £1200 for Macmillan in memory of Sandra Whatley, a dedicated member of our staff team for over 15 years.



## DID YOU KNOW?

A GCSE in Natural History has recently been approved by the Department for Education (DfE). The new qualification will enable students to develop a rich understanding of the natural world: from their own local wildlife, environment, and ecosystem to critical global challenges like climate change, biodiversity and sustainability.



## WHY WE CHOSE DAVID ATTENBOROUGH AS A HOUSE HERO



*The children in 'Attenborough' House proudly holding a hand written letter from the great man himself!*

In 2021 when Mr. Mills gave us the chance to re-imagine names for our houses, Sir David Attenborough's name was put forward as one of the inspirational role models. Eight famous names were options for the entire school to vote for to be the new house names and Attenborough was one of the winners! At 96, why was he put forward to have a house named after him at Port Regis?

Over the course of his 70-year career, he has become one of the most inspirational supporters and champion for our natural world. Earlier this year he received The United Nations Lifetime Achievement Award for his seven decades of being an environmental champion. He started his career as a trainee at the BBC. In the 1960s he became the Controller of BBC 2 when he oversaw the first ever colour broadcasts in Europe. These landmark series helped create a new kind of television documentary putting history, culture and science on screen in ways never seen before. He rose to become BBC Director of Programmes but in the mid 1970s he gave up his role as a T.V. executive and went back to nature to become an explorer and documentary maker. Without the ambition and passion for the natural world and his creation of land breaking documentaries, millions of us may never have seen some of the world's rarest creatures. Sir David has always said he didn't start making programmes with conservation in mind but as time went on, he began to realise that

many of the animals and habitats he was filming were under threat. By making television documentaries that millions can see, he hoped to inspire people to preserve the natural world. He will do anything to protect the different animals all over the world. He loves a lot of animals but he does not like one. He doesn't like rats! His dislike of rats started in the Solomon Islands. He went to the bathroom and then suddenly a rat jumped out of the loo! However his favourite creatures are Birds of Paradise.

## 'AN AMAZING ROLE MODEL FOR US AS A SCHOOL'

Sir David Attenborough is an amazing role model for us as a school. His passion for the natural world and his skills in communication are what makes him an outstanding person to name a house after. He is a great figure to show us how to enjoy life and to protect our planet while still being relevant and enthusiastic even into our 90s.

*Written by William V*





# OUR YOUNGEST PORTREGIANS PROVIDE HOPE FOR THE FUTURE WITH THEIR LOVE OF NATURE



Tuta and Eimii from A Form visited Pre-prep to interview Reception and Year One, to find out about what they do and have done to help and care for the environment. Here are their findings!

Reception told us about how they had been planting flowers and vegetables in the Rose Garden. One pupil told us they recall planting carrots and beetroot. They very much enjoyed this and hope to do it again soon as well as getting to pick and taste them when they are ripe. When asked about litter and recycling, they all knew exactly how to dispose of rubbish and put it in the carefully marked correct bins. The pupils were very enthusiastic about picking litter up. The children also often go on nature walks and observe nature very carefully. There is so much wildlife and plants to discover in the beautiful Port Regis grounds. They have also helped plant bulbs in the school drive as part of the rewilding project as well as helping plant trees.

Year One has signed up to achieve their RSPB (wild challenge bronze award). This is a group of activities that you can use to get young pupils outside, helping, and learning about nature. Once they have completed their six activities they win the bronze award.

They recently headed down the Forest School and helped make three bat homes with the groundsmen. They were extremely focused and enjoyed it a lot. Currently the tasks they have completed are: A big garden birdwatch, I spy wildlife and making homes for mammals. In the future to earn their award they will need to make a mini pond, plant for wildlife and look closer into nature. Very soon they will get their certificates for their big garden birdwatch in their Pre-prep praise and celebrate assembly.



*The Ecology Hut*

The children also regularly visit the Ecology Hut with the new tv screen with cameras that link to the bird nests. They also love seeing the school bantams and sheep. In the future both classes will be heading to a farm where they will learn about mammals and how to take care of them in more detail. The children also really love their regular trips to Forest School. We thoroughly appreciated having the chance to interview these two wonderful year groups and hope to find out more about what they are going to do to help environment and nature soon.

*Written by Tuta H & Eimii M*



*Making bird boxes in forest school*



## DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that The Lorax was the first Environmental book for children. Written in 1971 by Dr Seuss it was his personal favourite book. The main character, the Lorax 'Speaks for the trees' and confronts the Once-ler who is causing environmental destruction.

## PRE-PREP PUPILS' CREATIVITY INSPIRED BY THE BEAUTY OF NATURE

Damian Hirst's giant blossom paintings inspired the children to create their own spring paintings outdoors in the Rose Garden. The Port Regis bluebell woods also inspired this group of budding artists to create their own on linen canvas. They used three different shades of blue to capture the bluebell flower in paint. They have filled their sketch books with drawings of the doves and chickens, and are now working on their own paintings inspired by Monet's garden.





## WHAT MAKES PR GREEN?

Lower School have all made fabulous leaflets and brochures titled "What Is Green At Port Regis?". The brochures are packed full of beautiful illustrations and writing (in their best handwriting!) about all the things our school is doing to help the environment. They have created their own individual Green Vision Newspapers in which they have included work on diverse planting to attract more wildlife, creating new energy and recycling solutions. As well as building an Ecology Hut with a fire pit as a hub for outdoor learning fitted with a bird box with a camera in, planting trees and running a campaign to switch off lights, they also included information on growing vegetables for the kitchen, using old wood from the grounds for our heating and installing a charging station for electric vehicles, the brochures are packed with green information about green action in school!

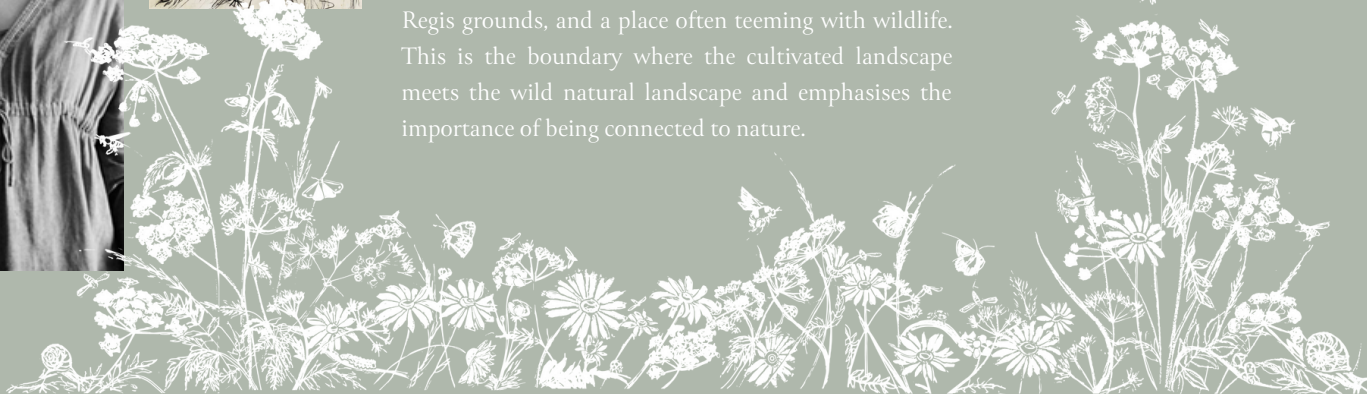


## THE STORY BEHIND OUR GREEN VISION LOGO



Somerset artist Natasha Clutterbuck visited our school last year and spent the day teaching some inspiring art lessons to C form. She creates large scale drawings, mainly in charcoal with some colour from natural pigments of 'Art from the Kitchen Garden'. Port Regis commissioned her to do a special piece of artwork for our Green Vision. The brief was a depiction of the woodland edge, a distinctive aspect of the beautiful Port Regis grounds, and a place often teeming with wildlife. This is the boundary where the cultivated landscape meets the wild natural landscape and emphasises the importance of being connected to nature.

The woodland edge depicted is dotted with cow parsley and foxgloves poking up from an undergrowth of brambles and ferns. The design is punctuated by pollinating insects – bees, butterflies, moths, and dragonflies. A giant vinyl of the logo sits beautifully on the main doors of the school Dining Room, and we hope to add further panels of this design elsewhere in the school.



## 200 TREES PLANTED FOR THE QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY

The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 which invites people from across the United Kingdom to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee". Everyone from individuals to villages, cities, counties, schools and corporations will be encouraged to play their part to enhance our environment by planting trees during the official planting season between October to March. Tree planting will commence again in October 2022, through to the end of the Jubilee year. With a focus on planting sustainably, the QGC will encourage planting trees to create a legacy in honour of The Queen's leadership of the Nation, which will benefit future generations.

As well as inviting the planting of new trees, The Queen's Green Canopy will dedicate a network of 70 Ancient Woodlands across the United Kingdom and identify 70 Ancient Trees to celebrate Her Majesty's 70 years of service. At the website [queensgreencanopy.org](https://queensgreencanopy.org) you can log on to the map of the UK and see all the trees that have been planted, including those at Port Regis. In the Autumn the children planted 200 native trees on the woodland edge by West Field, next to the woodland planted by Pre-prep children in 2011. Oak, hazel, holly, beech, hawthorn, birch and maple were all dug into the soil and protected with a biodegradable plastic tube. There are several deer at school who might munch the young saplings. There is a special wooden plaque by the plantation to mark the area. In 1991 the Queen herself planted a beautiful copper beech to mark the opening of Queen's Sports Hall. It is growing beautifully tall!





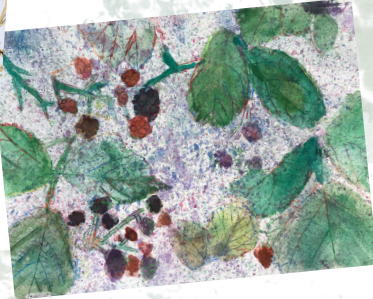
In our Art & Ceramic Studios...

## OUR FAVOURITE SOURCE OF INSPIRATION

Nature continues to inspire pupils in different aspects of school life from science lessons to poetry, drama, creative writing and the arts. This year pupils have really enjoyed the Woodland Edge theme for their projects in both Art and Ceramics. Highlights to spot in the up coming Summer Exhibition in Ceramics will be the E Form woodland dishes, D Form spikey hedgehogs and the B Form woodland themed shoes. In Art, C Form's collaged animals in woodland scenes should not be missed, D Form's wonderfully painted twisty and gnarled trees and A Form's exploration of gold leaf and watercolour painting hellebores and thistles found growing in Port Regis' woods will all be highlights.

'THERE IS NO BETTER DESIGNER THAN NATURE'

ALEXANDER MCQUEEN



'THE RICHNESS I ACHIEVE COMES THROUGH NATURE, THE SOURCE OF MY INSPIRATION.'

CLAUDE MONET



## PIONEERING ENVIRONMENTAL ESTATE TO INSPIRE PORT REGIS PUPILS



There is so much to discover down the road at The Newt in Somerset. In June C Form will be the first children to visit, taking a journey through history in the Museum of Gardening. They will be drawing and discovering newts in the ponds. There will be a literary quiz and creative writing inspired by apples, a moment of stillness in the Japanese garden, fresh ice cream from buffalo milk to be tasted and finally a journey into the Beezantium, an extensive museum which teaches about all things to do with Bees - from complex science, environmental issues they face now, and the history of honey cultivation. Here is a fun playlist to whet the appetite for the trip and put the smell of honey in the air!

*Bees in Music Playlist from The Newt -*

*12 Bagatelles, Op.13:No 9 l'abeille (the Bee) - Schubert*

*Honeybee - Coulou*

*Honeybee - Gloria Gaynor*

*Be My Little Baby Bumble Bee - Julia London*

*I'm A King Bee - The Rolling Stones*

*Etude Op.25 no.2 in F minor, 'The Bees' - Chopin*

*Flight of the Bumblebee - Rimsky-Korsakov*



Beezantium highlights at The Newt

William Shakespeare, Henry V, I.ii

For so work the honey bees,  
Creatures that by a rule in nature teach  
The act of order to a peopled kingdom.  
They have a king, and officers of sorts,  
Where some like magistrates correct at home;  
Others like merchants venture trade abroad;  
Others like soldiers, armed in their stings,  
Make boot upon the summer's velvet buds,  
Which pillage they with merry march bring home

To the tent-royal of their emperor;  
Who, busied in his majesty, surveys  
The singing masons building roofs of gold,  
The civil citizens kneading up the honey,  
The poor mechanic porters crowding in  
Their heavy burdens at his narrow gate,  
The sad-ey'd justice, with his surly hum,  
Delivering o'er to executors pale  
The lazy yawning drone.







OLD  
KITCHEN  
GARDEN

TO  
MOTCOMBE  
VILLAGE

PARKING

FOREST  
SCHOOL

GROTTO

ASTRO

NORTH  
LAWN

TO IVY  
& SPORTS  
PITCHES

18

P

19

10

11

16

9

8

12

15

7





1. The Mansion & School Reception
2. Lower School
3. Centenary Hall & Middle School
4. Dining Room
5. Jowett Sports Hall
6. Queen's Sports Hall Swimming Pool & Gymnasium
7. Farrington Music School
8. Upward Academic Centre
9. Cunningham Centre for STEAM
10. Pre-Prep
11. Rose Garden
12. Prichard Boarding House
13. Grosvenor Boarding House
14. Pet Corner
15. Tree Houses
16. Ecology Hut
17. Forest School & Hideaway
18. Port Regis Cottages
19. Off Road Bicycle Track
20. Bainesse
21. The Lodge
22. West Field House



PORT·REGIS



Alpha geography class explore interesting environmental issues worldwide



## HOW COPENHAGEN COPE: A GUIDE TO BEING GREEN.

50% of people live in cities. Governments around the world are trying to tackle this issue but one city stands out from the rest, Copenhagen. Copenhagen is the greenest city in the world and a beacon of sustainability in cities, planning to be carbon neutral by 2025. Let's explore how it is the No.1.

Cars increase carbon emissions in two ways. Firstly the fuel, whether it be petrol or diesel, creates gases that accelerate the greenhouse effect; additionally, the production and shipping of parts and cars does this too, even electric cars are not innocent from the latter. However, 91% of Copenhageners use bikes travelling around 1.3 million kilometres per day on bikes. 75% of journeys take place on foot, bike or public transport.

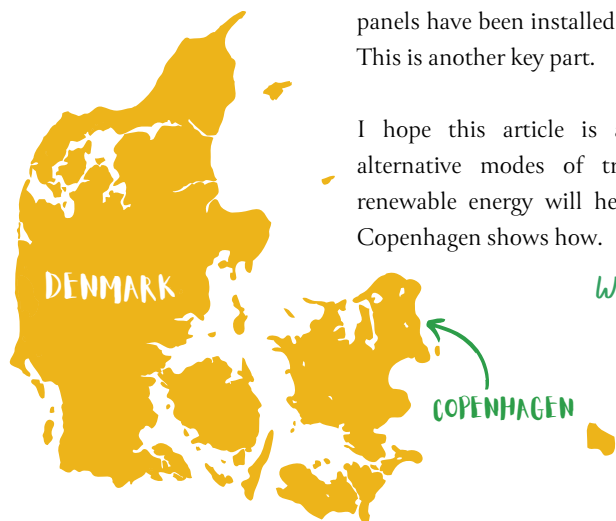
Being carbon neutral doesn't mean no emissions, but emissions need to be absorbed by plants. Green space is common throughout Copenhagen, as seen in the pictures below, Copenhagen launched 22 local green partnerships projects, plus two city garden initiatives and a school garden project. Getting citizens involved teaches them about the importance of plants and biodiversity. This, along with trees around the city increases mental health and increases physical health with cleaner air. Copenhagen is full of trees that also create habitats for animals increasing biodiversity. Creative use of space as seen in the title pictures and perfect placement of a plenitude of plants allows for balanced emissions.



Alternative energies help as most plants use coal and create emissions. However solar energy is used to circumvent this certainly carbon creating complication in Copenhagen. 60,000m<sup>2</sup> of solar panels have been installed on municipal buildings. This is another key part.

I hope this article is apt and all-answering. alternative modes of transport, greenery and renewable energy will help save the planet and Copenhagen shows how.

*Written by Arthur D-B*



## SETTING AN EXAMPLE: QUEEN ELIZABETH OLYMPIC PARK, LONDON

For London to host the Olympics in 2012, they had to build new facilities to account for every Olympic sport at the time, such as the Aquatics Centre and the Olympic Stadium. They also had to accommodate the athletes, so they built the Athletes Village. This came at a huge cost at the time and many were opposed to the idea and thought that the money could be better spent in the local community. So through careful planning sustainable development became the core of the 2012 games, ensuring that the legacy of the games lasted way beyond the 4 weeks of the Olympics.

How did they make this sustainable? Well, they used certified timber, which means that they re-planted the trees after chopping them. They also insulated all the homes, saving 183 000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. The Olympic Park was built on a Brownfield site, meaning that old industrial land was re-used, instead of having to expand London, which can increase urban sprawl. Natural light has been used as well in homes reducing power usage, which can save people money every year. When the Olympics ended, they had to make use of the new buildings, so they turned the athletes' village into affordable, public homes, surrounded by green spaces like treetop walkways and wetlands. The gutter system installed on the houses directs the water into the wetlands and then back into the system, giving the roof grass some fresh water every so often. Transport links have been thought about clearly here, as the DLR is a 5-minute walk away. Also, there are 195 trains per hour and 15 local bus services, accompanied by very safe and new cycle routes, encouraging people to ride their bikes, which can save CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

The Aquatics Centre was made public, and the Olympic Stadium was turned into West Ham's stadium. This is a good example of re-using buildings. A school was created near the houses, reducing the carbon footprint of commuting as a child. Thousands of jobs were created by the development, including opportunities in media, finance and retail (working for the local shops).

This development has set an example for other cities to follow, and they should follow. If every major city did something like this, money would be saved, emissions would be reduced, and wildlife and plant numbers would increase. Sustainability is easier than we think it is.

*Written by Johnnie B*

## DID YOU KNOW?

For the Olympic Park, two million tonnes of soil were cleaned with 80% reused to form the new Park landscape. Following the clean-up, the construction of the main venues and infrastructure of the Park was achieved in less than three years.



*East Village (Housing Development)*

**'[IN COPENHAGEN] 75% OF JOURNEYS TAKE PLACE  
ON FOOT, BIKE OR PUBLIC TRANSPORT'**





# SWEDEN'S SECRETS

Countries all over the world are dealing with environmental problems like pollution, global warming, overpopulation, deforestation and much more. Although the planet seems to be defeated by humans, there is still hope. Sweden is one of the most environmentally friendly countries and has been leading the way in green energy for 3 years in a row. This article will compare Sweden's green credentials to the UK's.

Sweden has 70.06 square metre of green space on average per person, a total of 30 national parks and 70% of Sweden is covered by forests. These figures are well higher than any of the figures in the UK. For example, only 13% of the UK is covered by forest. Sweden does this by setting strict policies to improve their country's environment by improving air quality, going fossil-free and aiming to use 100 per cent renewable energy by 2045. According to the data compiled by the US, only 2 countries run on 100% renewable energy (Iceland and Paraguay).

Sweden is also recycling 46% of household waste into energy and 87% of aluminium cans compared to the UK, where 45.5% of household waste is recycled and 45% of plastics are recycled. Sweden also has very clean water and tap water is sometimes cleaner than bottled water. This is unlike the Ganges river in India which is very dirty and considered one of the most polluted waterways in the world.

In conclusion, Sweden does a lot to protect the environment. This could be easily copied by other countries to make the world a better, cleaner, and more eco-friendly place.



*Written by Joe Z*

# SO WHY IS THE UK SO FAR BEHIND?

In the 21st century, many cities and countries have aims to become more environmentally friendly and help protect our environment. The UK isn't ranked near the top of the most environmentally friendly European countries and why is this? Comparing Sweden (one of the most environmentally conscious countries in Europe) to the UK gives scientists reasons of how we can become eco-friendlier. Sweden has around 70% tree coverage throughout the country, compared to the UK where 13% of land is taken up by forests. To fix this problem we could plant trees, but with the mass amount of deforestation and not everyone caring enough about the environment to plant trees, the government should sort this out. We need at least 30% of tree coverage by 2050. It is a known fact that petrol, gas and other forms of non-renewable fuel produce vast amounts of CO2 into the air. The UK produces around 400 million tons of CO2 a year whereas Sweden produces 12.6 million tons of Co2 per year.



There are two ways of reducing this amount. One way is electric cars; electric cars haven't been around long and are a recent invention. With 450,000 electric cars in the UK the future is brighter with car gas emissions. The second way is renewable energy. Sweden has 50% of its power from solar or wind. The UK has 43% of its power from renewable energy. In the future these percentages need to rise. The main thing UK citizens need to do is not leave this crisis to later generations.

*Written by Luke H*



# SAN FRANCISCO'S WASTE



Sustainability is a growing issue particularly in the major urban areas on the planet. With 51% of the population already living in towns and cities this figure is only going to grow with the increasing rate of urbanization. Governments across the globe are looking at ways to make urban living sustainable. For sustainability to get off the ground there are 5 key themes: urban greening, public transport, renewable energy, reduce, reuse and recycle and building design. In California, the city of San Francisco is one of the world's leading cities in terms of sustainability.

Compared to all other urban settlements, San Francisco reduces its waste accumulation much better. Around 77% of all waste produced in the city is recycled. Everyone in San Francisco is required to separate their waste when it is thrown away. The blue bin contains the recyclables, which are used to make new bottles, cans, etc... The green bin contains compostable waste which is used as soil in local farms. The black bin is for other items which are not recycled. In terms of local farms, San Francisco also supports urban farming, which helps with the environment as the plants absorb carbon dioxide and the plants are also planted on compost from the city's waste. In the near future, the city also plans to recycle its waste water for irrigation and recycle its cooking oil for diesel in cars.

Waste reduction, just like greenery, is one of the vital elements to tackle climate change, and San Francisco is one of the prime examples of successes in reducing waste. If this is not enough, the city also requires all manufacturers of plastic bags in the city to make them recyclable by 2030.

*Written by Jeck X*



# A lightbulb moment...

Port Regis' Maintenance Team are finally seeing the light at the end of the tunnel as the whole school LED replacement continues. Hundreds of lightbulbs have been replaced and the end is finally in sight! A HUGE task to save energy!

# DID YOU KNOW?

Solar panels can produce power without direct sunlight. Even if the sun is not directly beaming on the panels – or it happens to be a cloudy day – it doesn't mean the hues reflected from the sky aren't being captured and utilized by the solar panel cells to produce power!





# bedZED PUTS CARBON EMISSIONS TO BED

BedZED is a bespoke village design whose main goal was to be eco-friendly. BedZED was designed to achieve big reductions in water use and greenhouse gas emissions. It was initiated by Bioregional and developed by the Peabody Trust in partnership with Bioregional and ZED factory architects. Completed in 2002, the UK's first large-scale, mixed-use, sustainable community comprises 100 homes, office space, a college and community facilities.



Warm, comfortable, cheaper-to-run homes feature:

- Warm, well-ventilated houses: Most of BedZED's homes are heated by the warmth of the sun and highly insulated. Its distinctive wind cowls on the top of each house help fresh air circulate.
- Biomass boiler: This is an appliance that provides heat to the houses in the village through burning things like plants and wood chips.
- Solar panels and energy-efficient appliances: There are 777m sq. solar panels throughout the village meaning fossil fuels are not used to provide energy, meaning less carbon. In addition to the solar panels there are low energy appliances. This means that the solar panels can easily provide enough power to run all the houses. The rest of the energy comes from woodchips from waste timber that would otherwise be sent to landfill.
- Onsite car club: This is a car sharing service. This reduces carbon emissions by ensuring that no two cars are going to the same location at the same time and so stops excess fuel use.
- Waste recycling: There is a refuse collection facility so all waste can be recycled.
- Low-impact materials: All materials used for building were chosen from renewable or recyclable sources within 30 miles. This means that there is little carbon used in delivering the materials to the village.
- Water efficiency: Most of the rainwater is collected then reused, meaning that there is no need for power hungry treatment plants and services to transport the water.

## Background

In Hackbridge, in the London borough of Sutton, BedZED was designed by the architect Bill Dunster to be carbon neutral, protecting the environment, and supporting a more sustainable lifestyle. The project was led by the Peabody Trust in partnership with Bill Dunster Architects, Ellis & Moore Consulting Engineers, Bioregional, Arup and the cost consultants Gardiner and Theobald. The project was also pioneering by being the first construction project where a local authority sold land at below market value to make sustainable development economically viable.

The 82 homes and 1,405 square metres of workspace was built within the period of 2000–2002. The project was shortlisted for the Stirling Architectural Prize in 2003.

## Transport

Cars are discouraged due to them producing an excessive amount of carbon emissions for the number of people they carry. They encourage other modes of transport, for example cycling, walking and public transport. They discourage the use of cars by limiting the amount of parking available. Electric and petroleum gas cars are prioritised over traditional diesel and petrol cars. They encourage public transport by making train stations and other forms of transport easily accessible. There are electric chargers in all parking spaces to encourage it further.

## Conclusion

Overall this project is a success due to the well thought out overall living experience. This means that the eco-friendly aspect does not affect the convenience of doing everyday tasks. BedZED is a pioneer in this area and many places like it should start to pop up around other major cities.

*Written by Ned T, Alex W & Tom H*

## 'THEY PAVED PARADISE TO PUT UP A PARKING LOT'

Did you know that "Big Yellow Taxi" was one of the very first environmental songs. Written, composed and recorded by Canadian singer-songwriter Joni Mitchell in 1970, it talks about the plight of the natural world with its famous line, "They paved paradise to put up a parking lot". Other key lyrics include "Hey farmer, farmer, put away that DDT now" and "They took all the trees, and put 'em in a tree museum / And charged the people a dollar and a half just to see 'em".



# GLOBAL WARMING: ACTIONS AND CONSEQUENCES

What are the effects of global warming?

## Hotter temperatures:

Nearly all land areas are seeing more hot days and heat waves. Higher temperatures increase heat-related illnesses and can make it more difficult to work and move around. Wildfires start more easily and spread more rapidly when conditions are hotter.

## Increased drought:

Water is becoming scarcer in more regions. Droughts can stir destructive sand and dust storms that can move billions of tons of sand across continents. Deserts are expanding, reducing land for growing food. Many people now face the threat of not having enough water on a regular basis.

## A warming, rising ocean:

The ocean soaks up most of the heat from global warming. This melts ice sheets and raises sea levels, threatening coastal and island communities. The ocean also absorbs carbon dioxide, keeping it from the atmosphere.

## Loss of species:

Climate change poses risks to the survival of species on land and in the ocean. These risks increase as temperatures climb. Forest fires, extreme weather and invasive pests and diseases are among many threats. Some species will be able to relocate and survive, but others will not.

We can change that and save the world, but how?

### 1) Let's change our eating habits

To limit the impact of our diet on the climate, we should favour seasonal fruits and vegetables as much as possible. Let's reduce our meat consumption to reduce the rate of methane released into the air, the consumption of water used to water livestock, nitrogen discharge into rivers and oil consumption needed to feed and maintain livestock.

### 2) Let's preserve the oceans

To fight climate change, we must preserve the oceans. For this, each of us can act on a daily basis. For example, we can buy environmentally friendly household products to avoid dumping polluting chemicals into the oceans.

### 3) Let's consume clean energy

To reduce our daily impact on the climate, we can choose clean energy from renewable resources.

### 4) Let's sort our waste

For this, many solutions exist: questioning the necessity of our purchases, favouring products in bulk or without over-packaging, preferring eco-refills, etc.

### 5) Let's reduce our carbon dioxide production

Favouring public transport is effective solution for reducing gas emissions when we travel. However, the best solutions are cycling and walking, which are both ecological, economical and good for your health.





# THE QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY QUIZ

1. HOW CAN YOU TELL HOW OLD A TREE IS?

- A. How many branches it has
- B. The colour of its leaves
- C. The number of rings inside its trunk
- D. Through measuring its roots

2. THE WHOMPING WILLOW IS A TREE FROM WHICH SERIES OF BOOKS?

- A. The Lord of the Rings
- B. A Series of Unfortunate Events
- C. The Chronicles of Narnia
- D. Harry Potter

3. HOW DO TREES BENEFIT US?

- A. Through slowing the rate of climate change
- B. By helping to prevent flooding
- C. Providing a home to lots of wildlife
- D. Cleaning our air

4. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF TREE BARK?

- A. To stop them falling over
- B. It serves as a protective barrier for the tree
- C. Absorbing sunlight
- D. Cleaning the air

5. WHAT ELEMENT DO TREES STORE LARGE QUANTITIES OF IN THEIR TISSUES?

- A. Carbon
- B. Honey
- C. Electricity
- D. Stone

6. AMBER IS MADE FROM WHICH FOSSILISED PART OF A TREE?

- A. Leaves
- B. Resin
- C. Roots
- D. Fruit

7. WHY IS THE SANDBOX TREE NICKNAMED THE "DYNAMITE TREE"?

- A. Its leaves make a popping sound
- B. The leaves are crushed and used to make dynamite
- C. Dynamite was originally tested on the trees
- D. Its fruit explodes, sending seeds flying at 150mph

8. HOW LONG HAVE TREES BEEN ON EARTH FOR?

- A. Since the big bang
- B. 100 million years
- C. 370 million years
- D. 500 million years

9. IN EUROPE THE AVERAGE COUNTRY HAS 38% COVERED IN FOREST. WHAT PERCENTAGE OF THE UK IS COVERED IN FOREST?

- A. 13%
- B. 28%
- C. 50%
- D. 74%

10. PETER RABBIT LIVED IN A BURROW OF WHICH TYPE OF TREE?

- A. Fir
- B. Ash
- C. Hawthorn
- D. Birch





# Sustainable eating

## RECIPE FOR SUCCESS!

There have been lots of new initiatives at our school to make the catering department even more eco-friendly. Once a term we have a very special lunch called The Thirty Mile Menu. Let me tell you what it is all about. Every item on the menu is made from food that comes from within 30 miles of our school. This is reducing our carbon footprint because the food on this day has very low food miles. Much of what we eat each day has travelled a long way, beans from Kenya or oranges from Spain for example. Supermarket lamb often comes all the way from New Zealand. This creates more pollution in the air which is bad for the environment. The menu provides seasonal food from local suppliers. For example, the Ansty Farm shop is 8 miles away and they provided strawberries, freshwater trout can be sourced from Mere 6 miles away, Udder Farm for milk and beef is 4 miles away and other fish can come from Poole Harbour which is 25 miles away.

We designed a 30 miles menu because 20 miles or 10 miles menu would mean no sea food (yes that would mean no fish on Friday which is so popular!). It is more expensive, but the quality is better than so many grocery stores. We wish every day could be a 30 Mile Menu but it is not cost effective when feeding over 300 children each day. But Port Regis does source as much food as possible locally every day.

Other initiatives we are doing in the Catering department to be more sustainable include removing all snacks that come in plastic packaging. There are no more plastic disposable water bottles. Meat is not delivered in a lot of single use plastic and Mondays tend to have a meat free menu for lunch.

We are lucky children to have an amazing catering team who care about looking after the environment almost as much as they care about feeding all of us healthy and nutritious meals that cater for all dietary requirements! Yum Yum! And always remember to think about what you put on the plate, do not waste food, eat the rainbow, protein, and carbohydrates every day to help you grow strong and healthy and give you lots of energy to get through the day.

*Written by Tulumbe M*

### Bird boxes swiftly installed

To encourage the extraordinary but endangered Swifts to take up residence at Port Regis, three nest-boxes have been installed on the North-East corner of the Mansion. We have our fingers crossed that they will catch the eyes of some breeding adults, and shall await their hurtling, whistle-screaming arrival in our skies which signifies the coming of summer!

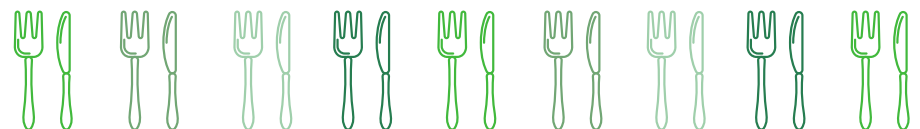


WE ARE  
REMOVING  
ALL SNACKS  
THAT COME IN  
PLASTIC  
PACKAGING  
AND NO MORE  
PLASTIC  
DISPOSABLE  
WATER  
BOTTLES



### DID YOU KNOW?

Plastic is a man-made material meaning it doesn't exist in nature. Belgian chemist Leo Baekeland was the first person to invent it in 1907.



## SCHOOL HAS A LOT TO DIGEST!



The school has recently acquired a state-of-the-art composter, cunningly sourced by Mr Binns on Ebay! Food - along with wood pellets - is fed into a series of drums. As it is digested, it is stirred with hollow paddles filled with hot air to maintain the correct high temperature required to kill any unwanted bugs.

The machine is also serviced by drainage points in order that moisture can be removed. A fan works hard to remove stale smells and further dry out the compost. The final product is odourless granules of efficient garden compost.

The process, from beginning to end, only takes 6 weeks. It has the capacity to digest all our waste. So, as Head Groundsman, Mr Pope, proudly said, "Not only will it save money, it will all be done on site. There won't be lorries coming in to take the food waste to be recycled."

Installation behind the kitchen is planned for later this term. We can't wait to see it in action. Another huge boost to our Green Vision.

*Written by the Eco Recycling Team*

MR POPE PROUDLY SHOWED OUR RECYCLING ECO TEAM THE NEW SCHOOL COMPOSTER, WHICH WILL DIGEST THE SCHOOL'S FOOD WASTE ON SITE TO MAKE COMPOST FOR OUR WONDERFUL GROUNDS AND FLOWERBEDS





## Pets' Corner

### AN UPDATE ON OUR BELOVED ANIMALS

Pets' Corner at our school is so popular. We all love to go there most break times to see our fluffy friends. There are six guinea pigs and one rabbit. The boarders also love going to Pets' Corner. At the weekends they spend time looking after them, feeding them, cuddling them and help clean their cages. We play lots of games with the guinea pigs too. Last breaktime we played 'schools' with them, but they were a bit naughty and would not sit at their desks in their little hides for very long and were very fidgety when we took the register. Here is a rundown of our fluffy friends;



#### Supreme Sandy

Sandy is the boss. Once mistaken for Bluebell, she really can get angry! She once took on a pigeon... so if you are a bird, watch out!

#### Tremendous Truffle

This is a sweet, fluffy black guinea pig, which follows around the others. She seems to like sharing a shelter with Delila...!

"IT'S SUCH A LOVELY PLACE, AND I LOVE IT WHEN I VISIT."  
MARTHA

#### Squeaky Little Sophie

Sophie (also known as "Squeakenbum") is extremely squeaky! If you pick her up, never be alarmed at her squeaking- it's normal.

"I LOVE COMING TO SEE THIS PLACE AND FEEDING THE ANIMALS." BELLA



#### Dreamy Delila

Everyone loves Delila, she is the only short-haired guinea pig. Everyone is attracted to her, but she is very hard to catch!



#### King Hatter

Hatter is the only rabbit in school and one of the sweetest rabbits you will ever meet (although he sheds a lot). He loves to eat dandelions. Be careful though- he scratches!

#### Bluebell the Boss

Like Sandy, Bluebell is the boss... leader of the others (except, of course, Sophie and Sandy) you should NEVER put her in the wrong cage!

#### Delightful Daisy

Daisy is a lovely white fluffy guinea pig, but does seem to like weeing... like Truffle, she mostly follows the others.



*Written by Cecily C, Olivia E with help from Marth & Francesca*

## SPRING CHICKENS!



Hooray!!! It's spring and after a long lockdown due to bird flu, the hens were allowed out again at the beginning of May. Although their run was moved regularly, there is nothing like scratching the ground and exploring the grass in search of tasty bugs! Salt, Pepper, Domino, Popcorn and Rock are all doing fine and are laying a lot of tasty eggs. Members of our chicken whispering club are looking after the girls very well and are learning about poultry husbandry. We make sure the eggs are collected, the nest boxes are clean, they have food and plenty of fresh water. We also love the fact that they all have their own personality and some love being petted! Paprika (a Chamois laced Polish) and Domino (Polish crested) are always in need of human affection and are easy to catch. Salt and Pepper (two silkies) don't mind being petted but not for too long. As for Rock (a Maran) good luck for catching her! She will give you a good run for your money and you will probably give up before she does!

*Written by Monsieur Douchet*

## SHEEP

We have loved having our visiting woolly friends, two Dorset Down sheep, in a special enclosure in the middle of the lawn. Two ewes are soon to be back with their lambs. These sheep are a rare breed. OPR parent HRH Princess Royal is an important advocate of rare breeds. This breed is native to the Dorset Downs and originated in the early 19th century from crosses of local and Hampshire ewes with Southdown rams. Dorset Downs are medium-sized, robust sheep with dark faces and short wool. Rare breeds represent not only a part of national identity and heritage but also a unique part of our agricultural biodiversity. They are on loan from a farmer nearby and have been hand reared which makes them very friendly with the children.



## THE BEE'S KNEES

Spring is also the prime time for bees! The two hives overwintered well and on first inspection mid-March I could see the queens hadn't lost anytime to lay and both hives were already very populated. By mid-April I had to put in a super (the small box in which bees store the surplus of honey) and by the end of April I had to do artificial swarms to avoid swarming. When temperatures increase and the first flowers come out, the queen starts doing what she does best ... lay eggs (although she never really stops unless it is very cold in the winter). A queen on good form can lay up to 2500 eggs a day! She is so busy that she doesn't stop to eat! Instead, she has a small entourage of young bees that look after her and feed her! The 2 artificial swarms are now on their way to become 2 independent colonies and are trying to requeen themselves. It takes 16 days for a queen to come out, a few days for her to go and mate with drones and a week for her to start laying fertilised eggs. I hope that by the end of May I will be able to introduce her majesties to you.



*Harvesting honey from our school beehives*





## A ROUNDUP FROM OUR ECO GROUPS



*Biodiversity Group with  
Monsieur Douchet*

The Biodiversity Group will be making a foraging map for the school site and creating foraging areas by planting various fruits in different locations. There are already a lot of blackberries, apples and hazelnuts in the school grounds and where they grow will be marked on the new map. They have started a hobby that is now growing some crops in a polytunnel for the kitchens – including tomatoes, potatoes, lettuce, courgettes and sweetcorn! Yum! F Form have also been planting a garden behind Prichard with a wild area for butterflies and bees. There is a cherry and walnut tree there and they are putting benches around the trees.

The Recycling Group have been finding out about the new composter which utilises much of the food waste from the school kitchen. Read their report on page 12. They have put new labels on the bins to ensure waste is disposed of correctly in the classrooms. We will also create targets for: reduction of food waste and general waste and the consequent increase of recycling



*Energy Group with Mr Hardy*

The Energy Group have been calculating how much energy is being produced by each building. They are introducing a prize. Each house is given a different building each term. The winning house is the one whose building uses the least energy. They will also highlight which building was the worst at energy use!



*Recycling Group with Mrs Cardozo*

The Plastics Group have followed the introduction of new soap products. Read their report on page 2. They are hoping to enter the Surfers Against Sewage campaign and apply for a plastic free school later in the year.



*Plastics Group with Mr Murray.*



*Plastics Group with Mr Murray*

The Communications Group have produced this Green Vision Newspaper, created a board in school for Eco news updates, and made posters to go around school to raise awareness of green issues. Next term we plan to pull all the groups together to lead an assembly.



*Communications Group with  
Mrs Mills*

## PRE-PREP CELEBRATES DECADE JOINING ROOTS & SHOOTS

In July 1960, at the age of 26, Jane Goodall travelled from England to what is now Tanzania and ventured into the little-known world of wild chimpanzees.

With little more than a notebook, binoculars and her fascination with wildlife, Jane braved the elements. Through nearly 60 years of ground-breaking work, Dr Jane Goodall has not only shown us the urgent need to protect chimpanzees from extinction, but she has also redefined species conservation to include the needs of local people and the environment.

Jane Goodall has set up 'Roots and Shoots' organisation for young people. Its mission is to empower young people to effect positive change in their communities. We can all help build a better tomorrow. Port Regis Pre-Prep joined the Roots and Shoots organisation around 10 years ago, and even reached the schools' finals, with a group travelling up to London Zoo with Mr Pope and Mrs B, to share their environmental work and meet Jane Goodall. To learn more please visit: [www.rootsandshoots.org](http://www.rootsandshoots.org)





# TREES ARE OUR CROWNING GLORY

Around 90 acres of the 150 acres that make up Port Regis Estate are woodland. The predominant tree is the ash but there is a good mix of oak, beech, hazel, chestnut, and lime thrown in for good measure. Here and there you'll also find the odd hornbeam, yew, scots pine, poplar, cedar, and tulip. One part of the woodland is also recognised as SNCI (Site of Nature Conservation Interest) and is currently undergoing a full survey by the Dorset Wildlife Trust.

Ash dieback, a fungal disease first recorded in the UK in 2012, is starting to have an impact and will no doubt continue to do so. Port Regis will continue to monitor its ash trees and will act accordingly. Disease in trees has also hit some of the horse chestnuts, most noticeably on the main drive. This fungus is commonly known as bleeding canker. Unfortunately, there is no way to control either of these fungi other than replace diseased trees with more tolerant species.

On a more positive note, Port Regis has planted 1000s of trees over the years, probably more than 10,000 in the last couple of decades and will continue to do so. This autumn pupils have helped plant over 250 hawthorn, hazel, birch, willow, rowan and oak.

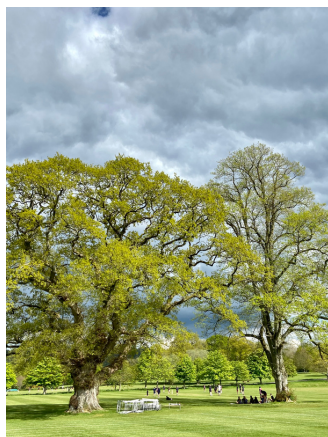


The rarest tree on the Estate is no doubt the lucombe oak on the North Lawn. lucombe oaks are a cross between turkey oak (*Quercus cerris*) and cork oak (*Quercus suber*). It was originally raised by William Lucombe at his Exeter nursery in 1762. The Port Regis lucombe now provides shade for the chickens and sheep. The tree is getting quite old now and had a prune and some straining cables installed a few years ago to try and keep the tree healthy and happy. Mr Hardy is planning on growing some saplings from the tree this autumn. The oaks on the golf course are probably our oldest trees, we think somewhere between 350 and 500 years old! Some of the limbs on these oaks are bigger than a lot of trees.

Elsewhere on the North Lawn you can find a ginkgo biloba or the maidenhair. While ours is quite young they can live a very long time, one tree was found to be 3,500 years old. Fossils of ginkgo leaves dating back 200 million years have been found earning the species the title 'living fossil'.

This coming autumn will see further planting by pupils ensuring a healthy woodland at Port Regis for the future.

*Written by Rory Pope, Head Groundsman*



## ADVICE FROM A TREE

By Ilan Shamir

*Dear Friend,*

*Stand Tall and Proud*

*Sink your roots deeply into the Earth*

*Reflect the light of a greater source*

*Think long term*

*Go out on a limb*

*Remember your place among all living beings*

*Embrace with joy the changing seasons*

*For each yields its own abundance*

*The Energy and Birth of Spring*

*The Growth and Contentment of Summer*

*The Wisdom to let go of leaves in the Fall*

*The Rest and Quiet Renewal of Winter*

*Feel the wind and the sun*

*And delight in their presence*

*Look up at the moon that shines down upon you*

*And the mystery of the stars at night.*

*Seek nourishment from the good things in life*

*Simple pleasures*

*Earth, fresh air, light*

*Be content with your natural beauty*

*Drink plenty of water*

*Let your limbs sway and dance in the breezes*

*Be flexible*

*Remember your roots*

*Enjoy the view!*



## LOOK AWAY NOW... IT'S THE ANSWERS TO THE QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY QUIZ!

1. How can you tell how old a tree is?

C. The number of rings inside its trunk

These rings show the tree's cycle of growth, with the lighter rings showing spring growth and the dark rings showing its growth during late summer, early autumn. There are ways of telling how old a tree is without it needing to be felled. While trees grow at different rates pending on things like soil quality and light levels, you can get a rough estimate of tree age by measuring the tree's circumference and dividing it by 2.5. Go and measure a local tree and find out how old it is!

2. The Whomping Willow is a tree from which series of books?

D. Harry Potter

Did you guess it correctly? The Whomping Willow is a magical tree from the wizarding world of Harry Potter. Its large branches act like arms and can attack anyone who gets too close!

3. How do trees benefit us?

A. Through slowing the rate of climate change

B. By helping to prevent flooding

C. Providing a home to lots of wildlife

D. Cleaning our air

If you chose any of the above answers, then you're correct. Trees have a huge number of benefits and that's why we need to do our best to protect them.

4. What is the purpose of tree bark?

B) It serves as a protective barrier for the tree

The role of bark is to protect the tree. Whether it is protecting the tree from water loss, warding off bacteria and fungus or shielding it from the sun's scorching heat, bark is pretty impressive.

5. What element do trees store large quantities of in their tissues?

A. Carbon

Trees absorb carbon during photosynthesis, which is then used to help the tree grow. Once the tree has absorbed the carbon it has been "captured". By removing carbon from our atmosphere, trees help slow the rate of climate change.

6. Amber is made from which fossilised part of a tree?

B. Resin

Amber is the fossilized remains of resin, which is produced by trees in response to a wound, helping to seal the wound and keeping out harmful intruders. Sometimes insects can get trapped in the amber, preserving them for millions of years.

7. Why is the sandbox tree nicknamed the "Dynamite Tree"?

D. Its fruit explodes, sending seeds flying at 150mph

The "Dynamite Tree" is one of nature's many wonders. The sandbox tree is covered in spikes, contains toxic sap, and has exploding fruit. Nicknamed the "Dynamite Tree," its fruit explodes when ripe, sending hardened seeds over a 60-foot radius at 150 miles per hour.

8. How long have trees been on Earth for?

C. 370 million years

It is estimated that trees have existed for around 370 million years. To put that into context, dinosaurs became extinct 66 million years ago. Amazing!

9. In Europe the average country has 38% covered in forest. What percentage of the UK is covered in forest?

A. 13%

Research shows that just 13% of the UK is covered in forest. The good news is that we can help change that, by planting trees and protecting the ones we have.

10. Peter Rabbit lived in a burrow of which type of tree?

A. Fir

In The Tale of Peter Rabbit, 'a very big fir-tree' is where Peter Rabbit and his family call home.





"This is what we hoped education would be"

- Port Regis Parent



Come and discover Port Regis for yourself

Contact Lally at [admissions@portregis.com](mailto:admissions@portregis.com)  
or call 01747 857914 to organise a private tour



HOW QUICKLY CAN YOU GET  
THE ACORN TO THE OAK TREE?



EARTH DAY WORDSEARCH!

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