



Dorset Gardens Trust Schools



19th e-newsletter

WELCOME TO THE SPRING TERM!

SOME A B Cs OF SCHOOL GARDENING

Art - Air plants- Activities

ART - get the children to draw and paint their ideal garden.



(thanks again to Thornford school)

AIR PLANTS - no need for compost and watering.



Air plants, or Tillandsia, are a wonderful option for those wanting houseplants that are low-maintenance, hardy, adaptable and also look amazing. A solution perhaps for school holidays and weekends when there is nobody around to water plants.

ACTIVITIES - REUSING IN THE GARDEN

When the weather is too bad for outdoor gardening activities, move indoors and start making labels ready for the summer planting. For labels you can use plastic spoons/forks / knives / sporks (shades of Toy Story 4!)



Or corks

or stones



Try a simple quiz - identifying flowers, could be spring ones such as snowdrops, daffodils, hyacinths and tulips.

Beginnings - **B**ulbs - **B**uilding

The BEGINNING of a new term, the start of those New Year's Resolutions - what challenges are in store for your school garden in 2020?

BULBS - did you manage to plant all the bulbs you wanted to? Are you starting to plan what summer flowering bulbs you want to order?

BUILDING - New raised beds? A pond? A wildlife area?

Now is the time to start drawing those plans and getting costings, remember you can apply for another grant if it is TWO years since the successful completion of a project. Do try and get the children involved in your plans, remember - working on scale drawings can help their maths skills

Coir pots- **C**ourses- **C**ongratulations

COIR PLANT POTS - if you want to give up using plastic, try growing in coir pots - they work out at about 30p each.



COURSES FOR HONING YOUR GARDEN SKILLS we were very pleased to have helped 2 school gardeners with an RHS Course, firstly Vicky Myers:



Inspiring Young People to Grow

By Vicky Myers

'Inspiring young people to grow' was the strapline of the course. But in just one day? The headline for this training course set the bar high, but this workshop on school gardening did not disappoint. We learnt by doing, and we did a lot. We planted garlic in a newspaper pot, Christmas bulbs in a tin can, took cuttings from willow and blackcurrant, planted peas and lettuce. We also made a Grasshead, clay snail with a pine cone shell and made a planting ruler. They showed us how to access amazing resources on the RHS School Gardening website and we talked about managing large groups of children, funding and safety. This course provided practical experience which I needed to help build our teams confidence in gardening with children.

Thank you to Dorset Garden Trust for funding me to attend a one day course on school gardening at RHS Wisley. As a parent who manages the school garden on a volunteer basis at Mudeford Infant School, it will really help improve the quality and diversity of the work we do with the children.

CONGRATULATIONS! we are delighted to include news from Damers First School in Dorchester and our DGT School Ambassador for 2019 Edd Moore



I thought you might like to know that on Friday 22 November Damers First School were crowned National Surfers Against Sewage Plastic Free Schools Champion in an awards ceremony in Bristol. This is for all our Plastic work in school, the local community and the UK. They were amazed by the work we had produced within the school by embedding sustainability across the whole curriculum as well as the children taking their campaign to Westminster to meet Michael Gove.

An all star environmental panel that included Ben Fogle, Hugo Tagholm, CEO of SAS, Helen Glover, Double Olympic Champion and married to Steve Backshall, Gillain Burke, BBC Wildlife Presenter, Liz Bonnin, Blue Planet Live and Drowning

in Plastic Presenter, Lucy Siegle, Reporter/Presenter on the One Show, Richard Walker CEO of Iceland judged the nominations.

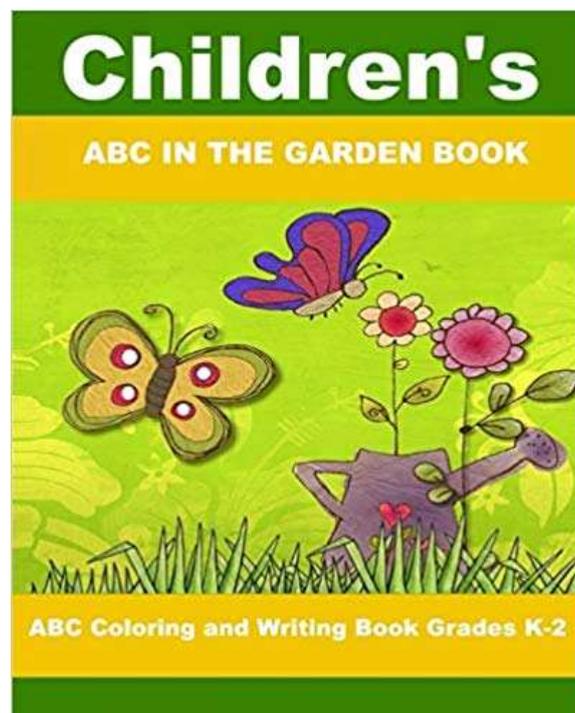
IN OUR NEXT EDITION WE WILL BE ANNOUNCING THE DGT SCHOOLS AMBASSADOR FOR 2020 - WATCH THIS SPACE...

CONGRATULATIONS TO Dunbury School on the completion of their project!

Happy and proud pupils in the DGT funded storytelling area



AND FINALLY Children and A B C



To win a copy, simply send us a photograph of your garden and tell us about your plans for 2020

schools@dorsetgardenstrust.co.uk

From all the DGT Schools Committee we wish you Happy New Year
and **GOOD GARDENING**