



Anston Greenlands Primary School



MARCH NEWSLETTER

Dates for your Diary

March Wednesday 20 th Thursday 21 st Friday 22 nd Thursday 28 th	Y3/4 visit to Magna Y1/2 visit to Sundown Adventure Land Y3/4 Science Fair (afternoon) Last day – Easter holiday follows – return to school Monday 15 th April
April Tuesday 16 th	FS2 visit to Butterfly House
May Thursday 2 nd Monday 6 th 13 th – 16 th Thursday 23 rd Friday 24 th	INSET day (elections) – school closed to children May Day – school closed to children Y6 SATs Class photos (and individual Y6 photos) Last day – half term follows – return to school Tuesday 4 th June (after INSET)
June Monday 3 rd WB 10 th Friday 21 st	INSET day – school closed to children Y1 phonics screening check Sports Day (morning) NEW DATE
July Friday 5 th Friday 12 th 15 th – 23 rd Tuesday 23 rd	Sports Day back-up date, in case of bad weather on the 21 st June NEW DATE Y6 Leavers' Assembly (morning) Non-uniform – Uniform Swap Shop to take place from Tuesday onwards Last day – 2pm finish – summer holiday follows

Farewell Mrs Forbes!

Some big news this month, as we announce that Mrs Forbes will be leaving us at Easter. I know that many of our families will have very fond memories of their children's time with Mrs Forbes, both in the current Y3 class and in her previous roles in the infants. This is an exciting time for Mrs Forbes, as she has made the decision to leave teaching, and will be moving into a new career; as a school, we'd like to wish her all the best for this new adventure! We'll certainly miss you Mrs Forbes – thank you for everything!

Y6 Transition & Sports Day

We have now had confirmation that the transition dates for both Dinnington High School and Wales High School will be the last full weeks of the year (week beginning 15th July), with the children rejoining us for the last two days of the year (22nd and 23rd July). Now that we've had these dates confirmed, we've been able to add Sports Day to the school calendar. This has been booked for 21st June, with a back-up date of 5th July in case of bad weather.



Family Rewilding Challenge 2024

Calling all Rewilders! As you know, our school is running a Rewilding Award for other schools in Rotherham. It's going really well, with about half of all Rotherham primaries signed up! As part of the award, we're encouraging schools to get their families involved in rewilding, and we'd love to lead the way with that. After all, if we're running the award we want to make sure we get gold!

To take part, all you need to do is allocate some part of your outdoor space to grow wild. It doesn't matter how big a space (although the bigger the better!) and if you don't have a garden, it could even be a space in a window box etc. Please don't tear down plants that are already making a good habitat for wildlife – the idea with rewilding is to take an area that *isn't* already useful for wildlife (like mown grass) and allow it to grow wild. That makes a vital habitat for small insects, which in turn helps small mammals and birds. There's lots of evidence telling us that rewilding is one of the most effective things we can do to help the environment and, in turn, help in the fight against climate change.

If you'd like to join in, one of the best things you could possibly do is make a pond. Don't worry though – it doesn't have to be huge! "Microponds" are a great way of attracting wildlife to your outdoor space. We've included a how-to guide below to help (from <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-create-mini-pond>).

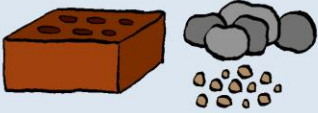
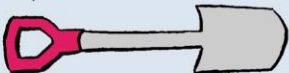
March is the ideal time to start a rewilding patch in your garden, so we're launching our family challenge now! **Once you've chosen the patch you're leaving to grow wild, please take a "before" photo.** You don't need to do anything with this yet. At the end of the year, we'd like you to take an "after" photo, and send both photos to us (we'll remind you of this later on). There will be a certificate for everybody who takes part, and every participant will be entered into a prize draw at the end of the year, as an extra thank you.

We hope that this will be a great opportunity to take action for nature with your child. Individually, it can feel very hard to make a difference for the environment, but if every family at Greenlands rewilds a little bit of their space, that will add up to a big change for local nature. Thanks everyone!

How to build a mini wildlife pond



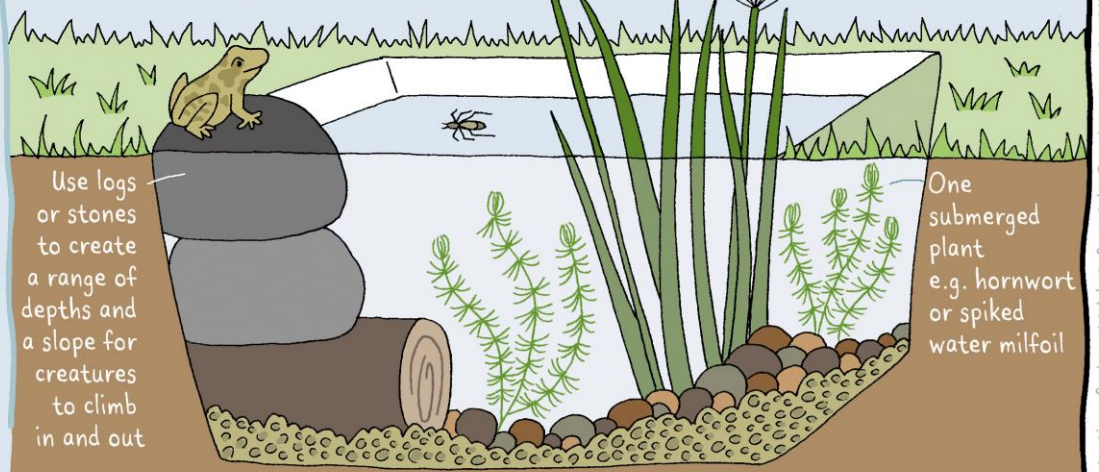
You will need:

- a watertight container* 
- old bricks, rocks and pebbles 
- pond plants 
- spade 

* Is there anything that you can upcycle? It could be an old washing-up bowl, sink or even a plant pot. Aim for 20-30cm deep.

- 1 Choose a spot. Your pond will need light, but not full sunlight all day. You can dig a hole and sink your container, or just have it sitting on top.
- 2 If the container isn't watertight, e.g. an old plant pot, then add a piece of pond liner.
- 3 Add a layer of gravel and rocks.
- 4 Fill your pond with rainwater (tap water contains chemicals).
- 5 Start planting... you only need two or three plants.
- 6 Now watch and wait! Wildlife will come to your pond of its own accord.

One vertical growing plant that reaches out of the water e.g. flowering rush



Use logs or stones to create a range of depths and a slope for creatures to climb in and out

One submerged plant e.g. hornwort or spiked water milfoil

Our New Website!

You may have noticed that our new website is now LIVE! We're really pleased with how it's looking and we all enjoy looking at the photos of what everybody is up to! We've checked everything with a fine toothcomb, but because the site is new, it's possible some things are wrong or out of place. If you spot any issues, please let us know at school so we can get them sorted ASAP. Thank you!

Anston Greenlands Memory Book

A big thank you to everybody who has been in touch with memories about Greenlands, in preparation for our 50 year celebration. At the moment, we don't have all that many memories or photos, and we'd love to collect more. Do you have an old school photo hidden away somewhere? If so, please do consider sharing it! If you have anything you'd like to share, please email it to office@greenlandsprimary.org with the heading "Greenlands Memories". Thank you!

Breakfast and After School Club Update

Advance notice that club fees will increase slightly in September, to £2.90 for Breakfast Club (an increase of 15p) and to £8.20 in After School Club (an increase of 20p). This change is in line with rising costs.

Rotherham Holiday Activities

Attached to this newsletter is a flyer for some holiday activities happening in and around Rotherham during Easter. There are some great opportunities on offer, so please do take a look!

INSET Dates for This Year

A reminder that this year's remaining INSET days are:

Thursday 2nd May 2024

Monday 3rd June 2024