

Food for Thought Newsletter

November

As temperatures drop it's easy to think there's nothing to be done in the garden; but there are always outdoor jobs you can do with your children, to keep everyone energised and enthusiastic on a dry sunny day and still have things to send to your partner school in Uganda. Here are ideas for planning, tidying and growing

Jobs for outside

order some seed catalogues

What you can grow

A big shed tidy up

Watch out for Wildlife

Jobs for outside

After all the autumn leaves have fallen, and winter storms start blowing twigs off trees and bushes why not have an outdoor tidy up? Spend 30 minutes with buckets or bags and gloves collecting fallen leaves and twigs and put these onto your compost heap. They will rot down and give you fantastic soil conditioner – allocate some children to pick up the inorganic waste – why not weigh what you have found and practice your maths skills? Have a conversation about inorganic waste in the school grounds – can the children make posters to get rubbish in the bins – or report what they found in an assembly?



Picture credit—Growveg.com

Order some seed catalogues

By ordering on line, you can receive seed catalogues through the post. These are great for children to look at and decide what they might like to grow next year; this is a very exciting time to make plans; can they use the information they see to plot their planting and learn the months of the year and use a calendar? Maybe some can then write an appeal for the seeds and plants they want through the school newsletter?

Check out our online you tube videos for inspiration—here's a link to our November video, all about autumn raspberries—it's now time to get some. See our top tips on the DDE Food For Thought website.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q1Xu6_h-MmU

What you can grow

Here are some ideas for you if you want to keep your growing going.

- ♦ Garlic can still be planted. Label clearly
- ♦ Broad beans
- ♦ Onion sets – use a string line and label clearly – plant at least 15cm apart.
- ♦ Bare rooted fruit; if you have had raspberry canes or strawberry runners donated it's a great time of year to get these in the ground. For raspberries allow 60cm in every direction and for strawberries, 30cm. Is this a good opportunity for using ruler skills? Always water in even if the soil is wet.

Have a big tidy up of the shed

On a sunny winter day there's no better feeling than having a tidy shed. Take a black bag and have a good turn out of the shed, throw away things you don't use, and have too many of, this gives space for what you need and makes it easy to find. You'll be ready for spring in no time. Dispose of anything broken or dangerous such as chemicals which may have been donated by well meaning donors.

Watch out for wildlife

As you work outside you will hear native birds like blackbirds which don't migrate—why not use the Merlin app to identify with your children the birds you can hear which are still in the UK. You may see blackbirds and robins hopping around as you work on your tidy up, they are hoping for worms.

Hedgehogs, toads and slow worms may be in your compost heap or bug hotel—be gentle when adding to the heap in case they get injured or disturbed



Picture credit Peckish UK