



Welcome to our very first Tree Champion Newsletter. So much has happened since we submitted our application for this project. The title of our project is: Nurturing well-being and resilience at Brentry Primary through nature. There are three parts to the project: tree planting, a speaking up for nature workshop and the development of a tree trail for the whole school to enjoy. We are one of 92 schools taking part in the programme and are very fortunate to be among only 20 schools in the whole of the UK chosen to take part in the speaking workshop.

Because of Covid restrictions, we are having to carry out all activities inside our bubbles at the moment. We have received our 5 trees: 2 different flowering cherries, a rowan, a crab apple and a holly. All will enhance our environment and provide benefits to a range of creatures. We are very excited to announce that Reception, Year 1, 2, 3 and 4 will plant their trees this week. Year 5 will be taking part in the speaking workshop (in May) and Year 6 are using a variety of technology to develop the tree trail (on-going with tech arriving after Easter).

We have already had an interesting visit from John Atkinson from One Child One Tree, who came to talk about trees to year 6. They got to eat willow leaves, play a crazy game of "birds of a feather flock together" and learnt a lot about trees. In Science week, Year 4 were busy making their own paper from used paper as well as constructing bug hotels, and Year 2 took part in a marvellous mini beast hunt. Year 5 made and decorated some beautiful bird boxes and some of these can be spotted high in the trees around our field. They also made some great tree information posters in ICT. All year groups have been enjoying the outdoor classrooms and playing and learning outside.

Following the PowerPoint slide show I presented during lockdown, I got some fabulous, enthusiastic responses. Based on this (and their general interest in nature) we have selected 5 Tree Champions in years 4-6. Numbers are limited at the moment in the hope that we can soon have 6 of us having a meeting outside. We have Humaira and Evan (Year 6), Elliott and Aya (Year 5) and Adele in Year 4 as our Tree Champion leaders. Sofia, Lucas and Katy in Year 5 and Minnie and Eliza from Year 4 have also inspired us with their enthusiasm and will be helping in other ways.

This week we are introducing you to Humaira who is our head Tree Champion. She is extremely passionate about the environment and is full of fun ideas raise awareness about what is going on in our environment can take to actually do something about it. I especially like idea of playing the sounds of nature in our classrooms while (when we are not able to be outside) as she believes this will atmosphere for learning. She wants to lead by example and is up litter, speak up about the environment and is very excited making the tree trail and sharing it with the whole school Humaira is an inspiration to us all!



about how to and steps we Humaira's working create a calm happy to pick about community.

A massive thankyou too to parents, grandparents and our Governor Chris Pullin who have offered to get involved with our efforts. A special mention to Nikki Morgans for providing mulch for our tree planting and lovely logs for use in our outdoor classrooms.

This is a call out to the whole school community to get involved wherever you can. As Covid restrictions ease, we hope to be able to have family-friendly events so watch this space..... Meanwhile, there are some wonderful activities and resources available on the Tree Champions website <https://youngtreechampions.org/> Children - You can encourage your teachers to let you try some of these out (they are linked to the curriculum!!!) or try them at home. Also, keep an eye out on the Tree Champions website under club news for activities being carried out here at Brentry Primary - Reception, Years 2 and 5 have already been spotted!

All children are very welcome to submit poems, drawings, information about nature, reasons why you care about the environment or anything at all even vaguely tree related directly to me ([SFennell@brentryprimaryschool.org.uk](mailto:SFennell@brentryprimaryschool.org.uk)), your teachers or Tree Champion leaders. We will try to post as many as possible in our newsletters and others will be displayed around the school.

Things you can do today:

1. Instead of google, try using the [www.ecosia.org](http://www.ecosia.org) search engine. They plant trees as you search. They have planted over 122 million trees so far!

2. Meditate

For younger children:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iplZGpP2VO0> or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mc24izlaLqA>

For all children:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GNKA2k44aTw>

3. Try growing something – lettuce/herbs on your windowsill or some bee friendly flowers perhaps.
4. Look out for signs of spring all around you, get outside and enjoy nature during the Easter holidays.
5. Keep an eye on the Tree Champions section of the Brentry Primary School website under Children. We are hoping to add new material all the time. Get creative over Easter and send me pictures of what you get up to.

Happy Easter.

Sarah Fennell and the Tree Champions

