



We have a lot to report since we came back in September.

Gardening club have been busy. Because of mild weather we were still harvesting courgettes, tomatoes, nasturtiums and beans into October. We have done some cutting back of mint, blackberries and raspberries so hopefully they can rest over the winter. We are doing several things to help our soil – layering cardboard and compost, planting broad beans (good for fixing nitrogen in the soil) and will try planting some green manure such as winter tares, rye and clover.



Gardening club students and other Tree Champion volunteers helped to plant two oak trees given to us by Chris Pullen, one of our School Governors. There were three but we think a squirrel got hungry!! We haven't had very much rain since September, so it's important to keep watering the 5 trees we planted last year. Some of them are showing signs of deer damage but they are protected by wire guards and we hope they will survive. Thanks to all our tree waterers!



Because of our successful bake, plant and produce sales, we have been able to buy a designated phone for our Virtual Reality headset. This has meant that several children (and staff!) have been able to walk with gorillas at break and lunchtimes. The VR experience provokes many emotions - from amazement, delight, fear and excitement. My aim is for every child to have the VR experience so please be patient!

We now also have enough money to buy a camera trap so we can keep an eye on our own wildlife – watch this space!

Year 6 did a brilliant job presenting their KS2 assembly on COP-26 and what we can all do to reduce our carbon footprints. Bella had previously had an amazing opportunity to take part in a film with the Tree Council which was sent to delegates at the COP-26 meeting. To watch the film, click on the link <https://youtu.be/BpnVNHgIIUo>

Year 6 explained what COP-26 was all about and gave us some inspiring ideas of what each of us can do to reduce our carbon footprint. KS1 will have their own version in January.



Patrick (year 4) was inspired by the assembly and went home and produced a wonderful poster with a powerful message. Aya (Year 6) had a brilliant idea about carbon free hobbies and wrote the following article to help and inspire us all. Thanks both of you!

Ideas for how to reduce your carbon footprint by Aya

This article is about how we can stop so much electric use. e.g. turn off the computer or gadgets/ appliances when you're not using them.

Electric use can be 25% of someone's "average" carbon footprint which is why we should reduce it. Of course, I know that everyone's carbon foot is different so it may vary from 0%-30% (that is a lot!). First of all, I think a hobby is a great idea on what to do to help (I don't mean gaming/electric use hobbies!). I do crocheting, basically knitting but with a hook, and there are lots of non-electric use hobbies too! You could try, painting, knitting, sewing (try to use natural fibers thread/wool.), playing an instrument, cooking (good for bringing your own snacks so you don't have to use as much plastic) or trying a sport. The list of low carbon hobbies could go on and on and there are other things you can do to reduce electric use!

You can replace lightbulbs with LEDs and switch off or unplug any appliances when you're not using them! Did you know, that even when an appliance isn't in use it can still be using electricity in standby mode? Another thing you can do to help is think about how much electricity you use like leaving your TV on while you go to play outside. You should then monitor your behaviour and try your best to remember to turn it off next time you go play. Every little helps!

Thanks for reading.

Aya Wojcik, Year 6

