

Wilder Kent Awards:

Over the last year, schools and community groups across Kent have been taking part in the Kent Wildlife Trust's Wilder Kent Awards scheme. Set up in 2020, the scheme was created to make a real difference in communities by protecting nature and wildlife for future generations.

Many schools and community groups in Kent have been working hard to make their sites and community spaces a better place for nature and wildlife - from creating new wild gardens to encouraging recycling. Here at Borough Green Primary School, we submitted an application celebrating our wonderful nature garden with its wildlife pond, bird feeders, hedgehog shelters, and long grasses; the newly sown wildflower area; our Forest School area with its recently planted mixed hedgerow and habitat pile; along with many other things we do as a school to encourage and protect nature and wildlife on our site. We are delighted to announce that the Kent Wildlife Trust have awarded BGPS with a Wilder Kent Bronze Award.

As well as celebrating positive actions taken to address the threats to the natural world, the scheme also promotes those schools and community groups that help connect adults and children with wildlife. In doing so, it acknowledges the importance of nature in supporting mental health and wellbeing and the positive impacts that connecting with nature can have for people and communities. As a school, we have always been passionate about using the whole school site to not only support learning but wellbeing too - whether that be finding opportunities to explore the curriculum in an alternative way, or running gardening and nature clubs after school.

Lee Mason-Baldwin, Head of Education and Lifelong Learning at Kent Wildlife Trust said:

"We would like to say a huge congratulations to this year's winners for all their hard work in helping us fight the climate and nature crises! Nature plays a huge role in supporting mental health and wellbeing, and so we are delighted that so many schools and community groups took part in the launch of this incredibly worthwhile scheme. Connecting with nature is hugely beneficial for people and communities, and we are excited to see the impact this scheme will have as it develops over the coming years."



A beautiful grass snake, which was recently spotted on the school grounds.

Forest School:

This year, years **1**, **3** and **5** will take part in a four-week Forest School programme run by their class teacher. This will take place on a Tuesday afternoon.

Year 3 will run across terms 1 and 2:

Cherry - w/c 6th September

Poplar - w/c 4th October

Sycamore - w/c 8th November

Year 5 will be during terms 2, 3 and 4:

Acacia - w/c 6th December

Maple - w/c 17th January

Oak - w/c 21st February

Year 1 will be during terms 4, 5 and 6:

Bay - 21st March

Myrtle - 2nd May

Willow - 13th June

We have plenty of waterproof rain suits at school but a warm coat and wellies (see below) would be advisable on wetter, colder days. All of the teachers have been busy planning Forest School activities to support all of our school experiences throughout the year, so if your child is in year 2, 4 or 6 then please do not fear, there will still be plenty of opportunities for them to access the Forest School area.



Cherry class created some nature art inspired by British artist Andy Goldsworthy.

Wellies:

Each class in the school has a brand-new welly rack and we are very keen for all children to have a pair of wellies at school this year so that we can maximise outdoor learning opportunities all year around. Please make sure they are named and sent in to your child's class teacher. If your child is in one of the year groups above, it will be particularly important that they have a pair in school before their Forest School sessions begin.

If anyone has pairs of wellies in the shed or garage that your children have grown out of and you would like to donate them to the school then please drop them to the school office for the attention of myself.

Kind Regards,

Mr Wheatley
Geography and Forest School Lead