

Supporting our Environment

Looking after the environment and climate is such an important issue for our children to learn about. It will continue to be relevant for them long after they leave school. Here at Carterhatch we feel strongly about ensuring our children are prepared, empathetic and informed for the world around them. We learn about these issues throughout the curriculum but especially through our Science and Geography.

Promoting Birds: Learning Through Landscapes

After our Year Two's noticing we did not have things set out to attract the birds and encourage them to nest we set out to fix it. The children made a range of bird feeders investigating the most used and researched what hedging would be best for the birds.

We planted bare root plants which are now starting to establish into bushes and will some day will be a hedge row. This provides us with many advantages as a school:

- We promote the nesting and safety of our local birds.
- We increase our privacy and therefore the safety of our pupils.
- We improve mental health through better views from class and more wildlife.
- We provide a pollution barrier between us and the road.
- We reduce our Carbon emissions by increasing the amount of plants we have.



The children applied for a grant from **Learning Through Landscapes** which was successful. This provided us with great resources like bird feeders, nest boxes, water trays and even a nest box with a camera. We also got invaluable training for staff on 'Increasing Biodiversity in Your School Grounds and linking it into Your School Curriculum '. It was wonderful that we were able to offer this out to our local schools.



Developing our Forest School

Forest School is a child-centred inspirational learning process, which offers opportunities for holistic growth through regular sessions. It is a long-term program that supports play, exploration and supported risk taking. It develops confidence and self-esteem through learner inspired, hands-on experiences in our school grounds.

We are at the very beginning of this process but are so excited to share our exciting journey with you and watch as it benefits all of our students.





As part of the development of our school grounds for our Forest School we have been working with **Carbon Footprint** to plant new trees and to build our own wild flower meadow.



Our contribution to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

We are very passionate about reducing our environmental impact and are continually working hard to improve our ability to reduce, reuse and recycle.



Reduce

We have already reduced the amount of paper we use by; moving to the online Learning Journey Tapestry for our Early Year's Pupils and using a Shared Server and Online Tracking systems to share information between staff and when appropriate parents. We continue to strive to improve this.

We have been working closely with our amazing Catering Team to reduce our food waste by understanding and responding to the portion size individual children and year groups need. We have also introduced a daily choice option to help with this. Unfortunately we do not have a separate bin for our food waste but we do provide opportunities to compost and provide food for our chickens.



We have worked hard throughout the school to introduce new LED lighting to reduce the amount of energy we use.

Reuse

We have introduced a Reuse Centre for our staff and families to contribute to. We love reusing these items to create, build and learn throughout our school.



We also collect rain water in Water Butts for our messy play. It is great knowing we are using water we have collected.



Recycle

Our children all love to think carefully about what can be recycled and learn this from an early age in our Nursery. Each class has its own recycling bin for general recycling and a box to take to our own Recycling Centre.

To increase our ability to recycle we use Teracycle and local recycling banks to recycle more unusual items like; pens, batteries, notebooks and even crisps packets that we collect from parents.



Being involved with the wider community and our local area

The Felix Project

The Felix Project collects fresh, nutritious food that cannot be sold. They deliver this surplus food to charities and schools so we can provide healthy meals and support our local community.



https://thefelixproject.org/?gclid=EAlaIQobChMIh_v5tOfu8QIVFvtCh3f2Qn5EAAAYASAAEgIXufD_BwE

Creating an Edible Playground

We have created many growing opportunities for our children to help them understand the sources of food. We love getting to cook with our produce and share what we have made with our families. We also put our produce and eggs collected from our Chickens into the Felix Project that supports our local community.

