



Ashbeach Governor Newsletter

July 2023

Dear Parents/Carers and Staff

Nearly the end of the school year, with lots of new initiatives from our new head and staff which are impacting positively on the children's attainment, progress and enjoyment. We would like to thank Mrs Smith and all the staff for working hard all year for our children. We would also like to thank all you parents and carers for your support. We hope everyone has a good summer and will return in September full of enthusiasm for the new year of learning.

Governors have continued to meet each term altogether, and individually they have visited school to review: finance, general curriculum, behaviour, safeguarding, SEND, Health and Safety, head/chair regular meetings on general daily operation and staff and pupil welfare.

We have a new governor just started with another in the pipeline, which is great adding to our skills and capacity to support the school, but we are still looking for several people to join our governing body, so if you are interested or you know someone who is not a parent but is interested do contact school and I will meet them to explain what we do. We potentially have a parent and a person via the LA who hopefully will be in place once all the safeguarding checks are complete, but we would like a couple more parents. I am happy to meet and chat through what we do, and how much time it takes.

I do a lot volunteering on The Great Fen nature reserve, and they have some ideas that may entertain your children during the holiday, copied on the reverse of this newsletter.

Enjoy the holiday!

Best wishes - Stay well
Joan Morters
Chair of Governors

MAKE A MINI POND

Building a pond is one of the best things you can do to attract wildlife to your garden, and it's really easy – you don't even need to do any digging. An old washing up bowl is the perfect place to start – just add stones, plants and rainwater.

Once some wildlife has moved in, you can become dipping detectives, discovering a world of amazing nature below the surface. There are simple instructions on how to make a mini-pond – and become a pond-dipper – at

[www.wwf.org.uk/
mini-pond](http://www.wwf.org.uk/mini-pond)



DISCOVER NIGHT TIME NATURE

GARDEN SAFARI

A garden safari is a great way for young people to explore and learn about a garden, local park or other outdoor space. Take a notebook to record anything you see, and use iNaturalist's Seek app to help identify any plants or other wildlife you find. There are tips on planning a safari on our website, as well as downloadable activity sheets: [www.wwf.org.uk/
garden-safari](http://www.wwf.org.uk/garden-safari)

a pot or windowbox, the more they grow! Download our guide to seasonal activities to find out more: www.wwf.org.uk/summer

ENJOY THE DAWN CHORUS



Nature's greatest concert – the dawn chorus – is one of the most uplifting and accessible wildlife spectacles the UK has to offer. It's on every morning until July and well worth getting everyone out of bed early for. Why not set your alarm, wrap up in blankets, take hot chocolate and make it a family adventure? The first birds begin singing about an hour before sunrise, and the RSPB has produced a handy guide that will help you identify all the individual species from their calls:

www.wwf.org.uk/dawn-chorus

CREATE WILD ART



Why not create a wild family masterpiece in your back garden, local park or local woods? Just use your imagination and whatever natural objects you find and get creative. Don't pick or damage living plants or disturb wildlife – only use leaves, petals or other natural materials that are on the ground. When you've finished, take a photo but leave your art behind for nature to reclaim.

late, and a jumper
as it can get chilly.

CHALLENGE YOURSELVES

Feeling competitive? Download our My Footprint app and tackle some of its challenges to see if you can reduce your environmental impact. Who will complete the most challenges over the holidays? Invite your friends to take part too. You can filter the app's content by subject – choose 'Nature' to discover activities such as foraging or building a bug-friendly habitat.

www.org.uk/myfootprint



MY FOOTPRINT
DOWNLOAD AND TRACK YOUR PROGRESS TODAY

our Thriving With Nature guide at
www.org.uk/nature-guide

GET GROWING, COOKING AND CREATING

Summer's the best time to enjoy really fresh local produce. Visit a pick-your-own farm and try making jam with your haul of fruit – then have a go at baking jam tarts. Even with limited outdoor space you can grow your own food. Start with salad leaves – they only need a small space, like a pot or windowbox, and the more you pick, the more they grow! Download our guide to seasonal activities to find out more: www.org.uk/summer



nature to reclaim.

EXPLORE THE SEASIDE

The seaside is within easy reach for many of us, so take some time to discover the nature on our shores. As the tide retreats, it reveals some stars of the ocean left behind in rock pools. Look up to see black-headed gulls and other seabirds. Binoculars can help you spot wildlife further out to sea, such as seals, dolphins or even basking sharks. Download a guide to seaside nature from www.org.uk/seaside-guide

