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Headteacher: Mr Iain Horner

30th March 2021

SCHOOL GARDEN REGENERATION PROJECT

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you may have noticed, there has been some work going on in the 'school house garden' to improve the space. We feel that the garden will then become a much more usable area, with seating for staff and pupils during the day, or for parents when collecting children. It will also give visitors to the school a really positive first impression of Chesterton and reflect our love of nature and the outdoors.



This work began in November 2019 when a generous team of volunteers began the task of taming the borders that had become a bit overgrown and unloved. Unfortunately, the situation over the last twelve months has prevented us from taking up other offers from volunteers, but the work has continued with some help from pupils, some hard landscaping and, most recently, with Mrs Pull and me trying to complete the job of clearing and weeding. I would like to thank the Messum family for their recent generous supply of manure to help improve the soil!

Although the challenge of keeping the weeds away will continue, we feel that we are nearly ready to start planting! In normal times, we would be asking the School Association for assistance with money to purchase plants but, given that fundraising activities have been limited in the past twelve months, I have come up with a different plan!



To contribute to the feeling that the garden belongs to the whole school community, we are asking for pupils and their families to donate a plant that will then form part of the revamped borders. We are only asking for perennials, shrubs and trees, so any that are donated should be there for you and your families to enjoy for many years to come (as long as we look after them well!). For those pupils nearing the end of their time at Chesterton, we thought that it would also be a nice legacy to leave behind and something to look out for when they visit in the future.

The planting scheme is about having a range of plants that we really like, that will provide colour and interest throughout the year, and that will attract a good range of pollinators to our garden. I have created a 'wedding-list' (attached) of plants that you can choose from! There are some larger, more expensive items, but hopefully lots of smaller, cheaper options. We do not necessarily need to have every plant, so there is some freedom to select the plant/s that your child likes. Hopefully, having a list like this will prevent us from ending up with twenty of one type of plant and none of another! The child will then be given the chance to plant their own donation in the garden before an official opening later in the Summer Term. Please email me (head.3082@chesterton.oxon.sch.uk) with the plant that you would like to buy (which could be one per child or one per family) and I will cross it off the list. It would be very helpful if you could select a back-up option, in case your choice has already been 'taken'. I will reply to confirm. I will also try to keep the list updated on the school website to show what options are still available (link to follow once it's under way).



The plants can be bought from a garden centre or nursery, ones grown at home (or at granny and granddad's) from cuttings or specimens that have self-seeded or been divided in your gardens. I am hoping to negotiate a discount with a local nursery for this project, but am waiting to hear back. If the nursery is happy to be involved, I will let you know how to receive the discount. We would ask for all plants to be brought to school in pots, so we can keep them watered and healthy until we are able to plant them. Please name the pot or plant clearly, so that we know which pupil brought in which plant! In the case of a home-grown plant, please also add the name of the plant! **Please bring your donations to school on Wednesday 21st April** and deliver to Mr Horner's tables on the school playground.

Although, we understand that you or relatives may have other plants at home that you are willing to donate, we would kindly ask you to stick to one from list so we can keep to some kind of plan and avoid species that may become dominant or not work in the conditions that we have. For now, we are also avoiding any annuals or tender varieties as, once up and running, we want the garden to be relatively low maintenance!

Thank you in advance for your help!

Kind regards,

Mr Horner & Ed Dallas (Year 6 Eco Council)



Chesterton School Garden Wish List - Spring 2021

Plant	Species (or similar)	Type	Colour/s	Max. number
Amelanchier	Ballerina	Small tree/shrub	White	1
Aster	Any	Perennial	Purple	3
Astrantia (Masterwort)	Any	Perennial	Pink/White	3
Aubrieta	Any	Perennial	Purple	2
Centaurea (Knapweed)	Any	Perennial	Pink	2
Cimicifuga (Bugbane)	White Pearl	Perennial	White	1
Clematis	Any group 3 (late flowering)	Climber	Purple	2
Cotoneaster	Any	Small tree/shrub	Any	1
Cowslip (primula veris)	Any	Perennial	Yellow	5
Daphne	Any	Shrub	White/Pale Pink	2
Echinacea	White swan	Perennial	White/Pink	3
Foxglove (Digitalis)	Any	Perennial	White/Pink/Purple	3
Geranium	Cranesbill	Perennial	White/Pink/Purple	2
Heather (Erica)	Any	Evergreen shrub	White/Pink/Purple	3
Hebe	Any	Evergreen shrub	White or purple	2
Hellebore (Christmas Rose)	Any	Winter-flowering perennial	White/Purple	3
Hydrangea	Runaway Bride	Shrub	White	1
Iberis	Masterpiece	Sub-shrub	White	2
Jacob's Ladder (Polemonium)	Carneum/Caeruleum	Perennial	Various	3
Jasmine (Trachelospermum Jasminoides)	Star Jasmine	Evergreen climber	White	1
Lavender	Any English varieties	Evergreen shrub	Purple	4
Magnolia	Stellata	Small tree/shrub	White	1
Nepeta (Catmint/catnip)	Any	Perennial	Purple	3
Ornamental grass	Molinia caerulea	Grass	-	2
Philadelphus (Mock Orange)	Any	Large Shrub	White	1
Phlox	Any	Perennial	White	3
Pulmonaria	Azurea	Perennial	Blue/Purple	1
Scabious	Butterfly Blue	Perennial	Light purple	2
Sedum	Any pink	Perennial	Pink	1
Spiraea Japonica	Any	Shrub	White/Pink/Purple	2
Verbena Bonariensis	Any	Perennial	Purple	3
Veronica (Speedwell)	Gentianoides	Perennial	White	2
Winter honeysuckle (Lonicera)	Winter beauty	Shrub	White	1