

Team Wilder

It was so lovely to work with so many children last week on our first Team Wilder Day – such a lot of enthusiasm and hard work.

We started at lunch time with the launch of our Little Bees and I had three sets of children coming to work with me. Our main work was to plant spring bulbs in pots outside Tulips. I was delighted to watch how carefully the children worked and the sense of ownership. Alongside this, they weeded in between the pots and also collected fallen leaves from the field and the mound. I showed the children how to weed carefully so that all the roots came out and I was super impressed – we have some great gardeners in our midst!

In the afternoon our new Busy Bees met and we all got to know each other. Our fabulous team this year are Ada Ridley, Hawley Fallon, Evie O'Brian, Tom Merryfield, Arlo Phillips, Isla Short, Lucas Edwards and Jessica Pearson. Congratulations to you all for being voted by your classes.

The Busy Bees worked hard planting a huge bag of spring bulbs into the large pots in the Friendship Area. You may have noticed how we have lost many of the grasses in those pots over the summer in those very hot and dry weeks. Fingers crossed that some are just lying dormant, but in the meantime Busy Bees have given them some springtime colour. We hope that you enjoy watching them grow over the next few months and the colour they will bring in spring...our pollinators will love them too, so there will be lots to see!

Our Busy Bees were also sent away with some homework – their own copy of the suggestions made by Craig Whitelock from Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust to look through and come up with their own plans for this forthcoming year. We will hear what they have chosen at our next meeting.

Thank you too for the Big Bees who have come forward – at the moment there are just four of us, and even though we will be able to cover a lot of ground there is still space for more Big Bees out there. Even if you can only manage half an hour once a month, you would be very welcome. Please email me at [gardening@parsonagefarm.hants.sch.uk](mailto:gardening@parsonagefarm.hants.sch.uk) for more information.

With our grounds in mind, it will soon be time for our first Working Party of the year. This first autumn Working Party will be to collect the fallen leaves – it's a big job but well worth it. As we have so many big trees in our grounds, we can collect the leaves to make our own leaf mulch. This in turn goes onto our beds to really improve the soil. Our Working Party meet at a weekend for a couple of hours and it is open to adult and children alike. Tea, coffee, squash and the hint of doughnuts are usually enough to get people interested. Watch this space for the upcoming date.

Our next Team Wilder Day will be on **Thursday 17th November**.

Amanda Whittaker





