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Headteacher: Mr Iain Horner

8th May 2024

THE HOPE GARDEN - PHASE TWO

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you hopefully will have noticed, The Hope Garden (at the front of the school) has gone from strength to strength over the past three years, since our initial renovation and planting project that was completed in Spring 2021. We feel that the garden is a now much more usable area, with seating for staff and pupils during the day, or for parents when collecting children. It also gives visitors to the school a really positive first impression of Chesterton and reflects our love of nature and the outdoors.

After planting and establishing the many generous donations that we received three years ago, we have been doing our best to keep the area pruned, weeded and watered. I am pleased to say that most of our plants have made it through the summer droughts, cold snaps and long wet winters and the space is definitely starting to come together. However, now we have seen what works and what doesn't, we are in the position to make some additions to fill some gaps and improve the area even further.

As before, 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. It may be that your child hadn't started at Chesterton in 2021, that you didn't manage to take part on that occasion, or that you would like to be part of the project for a second time. We are only asking for perennials, shrubs and trees, so any plants that are donated should be there for you and your families to enjoy for many years to come.



2021



2024

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.

As before, I have created a 'wish 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. 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.

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 Friday 17th May** 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 the 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 we want to keep the garden relatively low maintenance!

Thank you in advance for your help!

Kind regards,

Mr Horner, Ruby Blackman and Bella Williams (Year 6 Eco Councillors)



Chesterton School Garden Wish List - Spring 2024

Plant	Species (or similar)	Type	Colour/s	Max. number
Achillea	Desert Eve	Perennial	Light Pink	2
Aster	Any	Perennial	Any	4
Astrantia (Masterwort)	Any	Perennial	Pink/White	3
Campanula	Any	Perennial	White/Blue	2
Centaurea (Knapweed)	Any	Perennial	Pink	2
Cimicifuga (Bugbane)	White Pearl	Perennial	White	1
Cowslip (primula veris)	Any	Perennial	Yellow	5
Dwarf Korean Lilac (syringe pubescens)	Any	Shrub	Light pink	2
Echinacea	White swan	Perennial	White/Pink	3
Foxglove (Digitalis)	Any	Perennial	White/Pink/Purple	6
Hydrangea Petiolaris (Climbing)	Any	Shrub (climbing)	White	1
Iberis	Masterpiece / Pink Ice	Sub-shrub	White	2
Jacob's Ladder (Polemonium)	Carneum/Caeruleum	Perennial	Various	3
Lavender	Any English varieties	Evergreen shrub	Purple	4
Phlox	Any	Perennial	White	3
Salvia greggii	Any	Perennial	Pink/white/purple	3
Scabious	Any	Perennial	Light purple	2
Verbena Bonariensis	Any	Perennial	Purple	3
Weigela	Any	Shrub	Light pink / white	1
Winter honeysuckle (Lonicera) *To be planted adjacent to playground	Winter beauty	Shrub	White	1