



St Mark's C.E. Primary School

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs Clare Wright

7th July 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

The Eco Group, a group of pupils with an interest in the environment, began this year with a view to making St Mark's greener.

Among purchasing litter picking equipment and a hedgehog house, the group have also helped Mrs Bishop apply for the Frank Rust Memorial Schools Garden Grant. This is a grant awarded to schools to help them develop their growing spaces so that pupils can grow and then eat and use the produce grown in school.

Thanks to the Eco Group, St Mark's were successful in securing this grant for the school.

Here is the vision written by Mrs Bishop and the pupils in Eco Group, which helped secure the funding for the school. It explains the ideas behind the garden and why the group have chosen specific plants to grow and how these link to our school values:

St Mark's is a small school which has two parallel roads running either side of it and we are quite short on outdoor space. We love our school and our community but sometimes it is tricky to find a peaceful place to relax in the hub bub of a thriving urban area. Our vision is to create a mindful space where pupils and staff can go to relax, reflect and unwind. Utilising the small garden area we currently have we plan to plant three fruit trees- apple, pear and plum. Each tree represents one of the school values: thinking, love and spirituality. Pupils will paint and write on a pebble what each of these values mean to them. These painted pebbles will be placed around the base of the fruit trees. The pebbles will then stay around the trees for other pupils, staff and visitors to the school to pick up and read during moments of quiet contemplation in our mindfulness garden where 'great fruits grow from small seeds sown'. The pebbles representing the small seed, like that from which the fruit trees grew; the message attached to them growing in a person's mind, to grow like the fruit trees into a deep thought, a gesture of love, or a moment of profound spirituality.

The Eco Group have now planted the fruit trees in our garden and pupils will write on their pebbles at the start of the new school year in September, ready to be placed in the mindfulness garden for visitors, pupils and staff to read throughout the year.

We would love for you to come and visit the fruit trees in our mindfulness garden. These will be available to view during the PTA BBQ this year. The trees can be found in the Queens Road playground, in the far corner of the play area.

Kind regards,

Mrs Bishop and The Eco Group

