

Fruit Tree Planting

Guidance sheet

At the **BSA** we think trees are fantastic and provide a major solution to the climate crisis by capturing and storing carbon, whilst also mitigating and maybe preventing flooding, soil erosion and providing habitats for plants and animals. By planting fruit trees, we are providing a food source that pupils can easily recognise.

BEFORE PLANTING THERE ARE A NUMBER OF THINGS TO CONSIDER:

- Choose a species that is suitable in size for the area you are planting.
- Avoid planting if there's a frost – place roots into moist soil until conditions improve.
- Bare-root fruit trees can be planted late autumn to early winter as this is when the tree is in its dormant stage.

PLANTING IN THE GROUND

- Dig a hole up to three times the diameter of the root system and break up the surrounding soil with a fork before planting. If you are planting on land that is turfed, chop the turf up that was removed and layer in the bottom for extra nutrients.
- Place the tree in the hole and carefully refill, placing soil around all the roots to eliminate air pockets. Check for the collar of the tree (the mark where it originally grew out of the soil, make sure its level with the top of your hole. Too deep and the stem might rot, too shallow and the roots above the ground will die.
- Hold the tree upright and firm the soil gently by stepping on it. Do not compact too much as you want air and water to still be able to circulate.
- Add a stake for support and a protective sleeve and/or a barrier to protect your new tree from rabbits, deer etc. as it grows.

QUICK TIPS FOR BEGINNERS

- Many fruit trees produce beautiful blooms as well as tasty fruits. Apple trees, pear trees, and beloved cherry trees all create gorgeous flowers that are an absolute treat.
- Unless your tree is self-pollinating (peaches, nectarines, some cherries), then you should be planting a pair of trees to ensure the growth of any produce. Many fruit trees, such as apple and pears, need their flowers to be pollinated by bees and as such, in order to grow produce, plant a different cultivar of the same fruit nearby your first tree. Ensure they flower at the same time, or they won't bear fruit.

Above all,
enjoy!

