



## **Tree Planting Off School Grounds with the Tree Pips Team**

### **Stage 1 – Initial Visit**

Between the spring and early autumn, a TreePips Officer will visit your school/Home Education group, and assess your school grounds / local learning space. It may be the case that you do not have space for trees. Here, we will discuss with you potential planting areas within a 300 metre radius of your school, or further if necessary.

At this stage, we will offer a choice of educational workshops for you to choose from. This can range from tree identification or mapping and site design, to bug hunts, arts and crafts, and sensory activities.

We will look at what is possible, and take your ideas away to assemble an educational package that suits you, and then start consultation with local community groups about planting trees in local green spaces. We already have a positive response from many community groups wanting more trees in their area, who would love the opportunity to work together with local schools.

### **Stage 2 – Delivery of Assemblies**

We would like to deliver two interactive assemblies, one each for Key Stage 1 and 2 pupils. These will focus on the many benefits of trees, particularly trees in cities.

### **Stage 3 – Tree Workshops**

Soon after the assemblies, we would like to deliver a maximum of 4 workshops (you can have fewer if you prefer), ideally presented within the same week. At this stage, the children might like to design their own tree plan.

### **Stage 4 – Ordering the Trees**

During autumn, and assuming the local community are happy with the tree plans, your TreePips Officer will order the trees and start preparing for the tree planting event, which will happen on a day that suits you, between November and February. We will email you the risk assessments and be available to answer any queries. You might want to think about whether you would like to invite the children's families to attend the tree planting event at this stage. We will also plan how the day will run, including how many children will attend, how many groups, and at what times they shall arrive (starting at 10am and finishing by 2pm).

## **Stage 5 – Tree Planting**

We will arrive on site armed with trees, stakes and tree guards (if needed), mulch, wheelbarrows and a team of willing helpers. You can nominate a group of children to help (e.g. Green Club, eco group), or send out classes separately. The number of children helping will depend on how many trees will be planted.

Children and staff will need to be appropriately dressed for the weather – sturdy shoes/ wellington boots, warm clothes, and waterproof clothing. Some teachers will be needed to supervise the children, but we recommend they get involved too. Not only will it be more fun, but it will stop them getting too cold!

The TreePips Officers will give a tool talk before starting, and teach the children how to safely plant trees. Stakes/tree guards will be applied if necessary, followed by a thick layer of mulch to hold the moisture in and keep the weeds at bay.

As we will be planting mostly ‘whips’ (trees 2-3 years old, up to 1 metre high), the work should not be too physically demanding, and people of all abilities can join in. So there’s no excuse not to get muddy!

## **Stage 6 – After the planting...**

TreePips aim to have a large group of willing volunteers from the local community to care for your trees once they are planted. However, if you would like your school to be involved with their maintenance, such as weeding and watering, you can discuss how to do this with your TreePips officer.

We hope that the children enjoy their trees, and continue to learn more about them throughout their education. We will provide you with links to our on-line learning resources so you can deliver tree-based lessons if you choose to.

We want every child to feel a sense of ownership of these trees. We aim to plant over 36,000 trees during this project, meaning there will be one tree planted for every primary school-aged child in Bristol. For those who have not physically planted a tree, they can be reassured that every time they see a ‘whip’, it might be theirs.

