



Woolmore Primary School

NEWSLETTER

February 2020 ♦ Cleaner Air Edition



An exciting project at Woolmore beginning on Monday 10th February

Who are **Trees for Cities**?

"**Trees for Cities** is the only UK charity working at a national and international scale to improve lives by **planting trees in cities**. We get stuck in with local communities to cultivate lasting change in their neighbourhoods – whether it's revitalising forgotten spaces, **creating healthier environments** or getting people excited about growing, foraging and eating healthy food".

Why do **Trees for Cities** want to help us?

The Deputy Chief Executive at Trees for Cities, Kate Sheldon states, "**Planting Healthy Air gives schools the tools to take positive action so that they can help protect their pupils from the devastating health effects of exposure to air pollution whilst in the playground. We're under no illusion that trees will solve the problem, but they certainly help, and bring a whole host of other benefits besides.**"

Changes to our playground to improve air quality and make it a healthier place

- A big tree in the Reception outdoor area with benches to sit on and a shaded area to play
- Green screens along fences and in the car park slowing emissions from the Blackwall tunnel
- Plants and benches in the nursery playground
- Landscaping of the large playground beside the shelter to include planting, apple trees, sensory shrubs and new seating

HOW EXCITING!

How can **Trees for Cities** reduce air pollution?

Trees can reduce air pollution by absorbing toxic chemicals through their stomata, or 'pores', effectively filtering these chemicals from the air. Trees also mitigate the greenhouse gas effect by trapping heat, reduce ground-level ozone levels and release life-giving oxygen.

What else?

- Improve air quality and humidity levels
- Reduce stress
- Make people calmer and happier
- Speed up recovery from illness
- Improve concentration, productivity and creativity
- Plants help to increase oxygen levels and our bodies need this to thrive and be healthy



Green is a cool colour that symbolises nature and the natural world. Perhaps because of its strong associations with nature, green is often thought to represent tranquillity, good luck and health. Researchers have also found that green can improve reading ability. That suits us at Woolmore!



We have many large indoor plants at Woolmore to help keep the air clean

What is **pollution**?

The **five** major types of pollution are:

1. **air pollution**
2. **water pollution**
3. **soil pollution**
4. **light pollution**
5. **and noise pollution**

The **Trees for Cities** project will help us to reduce air pollution (and noise pollution).



What is air pollution?

Air pollution occurs when the air contains gases, dust, fumes or odour in harmful amounts. That is, amounts which could be harmful to the health or comfort of humans and animals or which could damage to plants and materials.

The substances that cause air pollution are called pollutants.

Look out for...

- A digger arriving on Monday 10th February
- Tons of soil being delivered in the playground
- Meeting new people who are helping to make this amazing project possible including planners, designers, gardeners and volunteers
- A launch assembly
- A session for parents
- Workshops and lessons for all classes
- Updates on Twitter @woolmoretweets

"All children can achieve success"



We love trees!
Look at our logo!
And the names of our classes!

Look out for new apple trees and help us look after them

Thank you already to...

Everyone who is making this exciting and life-changing project possible including:

- Trees for Cities
- Funders who have enabled a lot of this work to be done through the charity
- More appreciations to follow...



Meet Thomas, Grace and Rory who will be working with us on our playground and healthy air plan

How will **Trees for Cities** change our playground?

- The Trees for Cities team will come in next week and meet all classes from Reception to Year 6 to educate us about the project, the redesign of our playground and what we can do to look after it. This will empower us to make changes at playtimes to reduce our exposure to pollution.
- They will start work on our playground on February the 10th and finish on February the 28th.
- They will plant new trees, landscape some areas and install green walls.

What can pupils, teachers and parents do to help?

Everyone!

- Look after the plants at playtimes.
- Enjoy nature and our new natural spaces!
- Spread the news – tell parents, friends and family all about our new project.

Eco-councillors

- Look at ways to monitor how pollution levels change over the course of 12 months

