

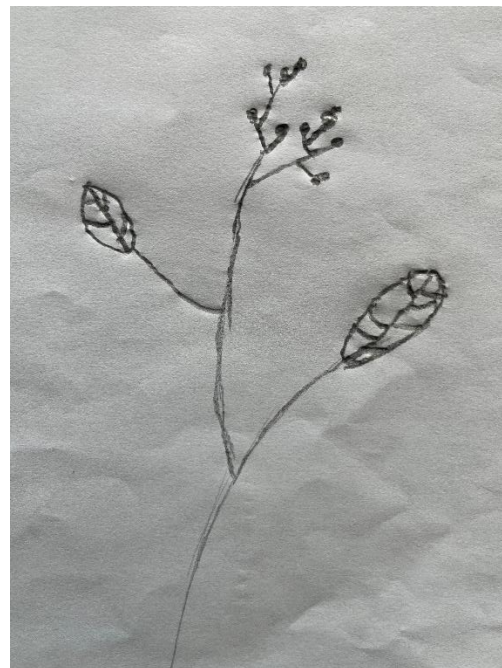
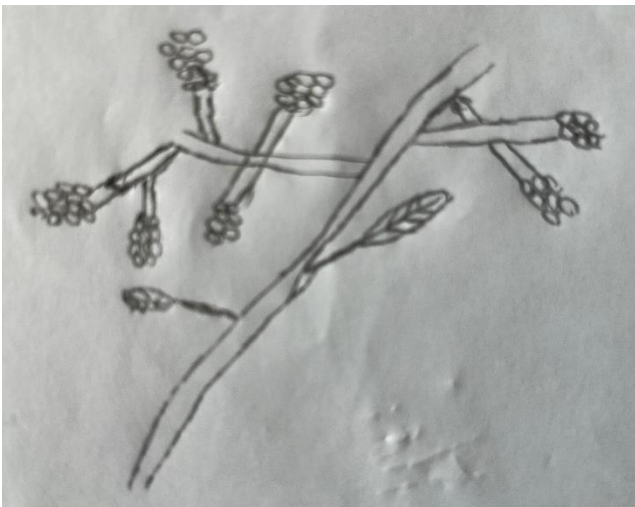
## Eco Council Newsletter May 2024

The Eco Council has been working through the RSPB Wild Challenges. This time we worked on two activities; Look Closer and Homes for Amphibians.

### Look Closer

This involved looking closely at plants or flowers in the school grounds and drawing them. We were encouraged to look at the colours, shapes and sizes.

Here are some of our drawings:





Everyone looked so closely at the colours and shapes of the different plants growing in our school grounds.

## Homes for Amphibians

### Make a toad hole

Fancy living somewhere that's dark, damp and cool? Maybe you don't, but it's just what a sleepy toad wants. Make your very own toad abode.

#### You will need

- An old clay flower pot about 20 cm across at the top
- Trowel
- Leaves, moss and mulch

**1** Find a spot that's cool, shady and out of the way. Under a bush is especially good, somewhere where other people won't find it.



**4** Half-fill the pot with leaves, moss and mulch and scatter more around the pot. Now wait for a toad to make your pot its daytime home.



**2** Dig a hole about 10 cm deep and as long as your pot. If you can, dig it facing north to south.

**3** Tip the pot in the hole on its side so that it's half buried. The mouth of the pot should face south (out of most strong winds and rain).





We followed the instructions to make a home for a toad. Mrs Wicks dug out the hole and put the pot in. Eco Council took turns to add soil, twigs and leaves around the hole to camouflage it and make it a comfortable place for a toad to live in. Mr Borley has spotted a toad living close to the pond so we are hoping that it starts using the new home soon!



### ***What could you do?***

You could make a toad home in your garden. Follow the instructions above and tell your Eco Council class member.

You could draw some of the plants that are growing in a local outdoor space such as Greenwood Park.

### **No Mow May**

Remember to look at the information on the Plant Life website. There are lots of spotting guides and other activities on there too.

<https://www.plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay/>

### **Our plans for the year:**

We have been given some wildflower seeds so will plant these in the school grounds. The other challenges we chose are Habitat Heaps and Plant Safari. We will complete these during the year so look out for our next newsletters.

The Eco Council