



The Willows Primary School

Growing Outside

Wednesday 25th November 2020

Weather: Dull and raining in the morning.

Growing Outside

Children: Year 1 and The Beehive

Flower Bulbs.

Today was our second day at Growing Outside looking at bulbs. We began by looking at the bulbs. The children all held a daffodil bulb and had a good look at them.

A few of the smaller children thought they were a pear as they were the same shape. Many thought they were an onion. An onion is also a type of bulb and everyone was surprised to learn that



an onion does grow a flower too. Onion bulbs are edible, garlic is also an edible bulb, however flower bulbs are definitely not edible and will poison you if eaten.

The older children in the Beehive knew they were flower bulbs.

The children described the bulbs as hard, dry, ugly, flaky and dead looking. The children couldn't believe that something so lifeless could grow beautiful flowers. One of the children

asked me how they grow the flower. The bulb is a bit like a fridge, full of food and energy. Inside the bulb are lots of layers and these layers are where the energy is stored. This energy is used to grow a flower. After the flower dies the bulb will store

more energy. It collects this energy from the sun using the green leaves of the plant.



The children noticed that the bottom of some of the bulbs were 'hairy', these are the roots. The roots help the plant suck up water like straws. They also help the plant stay upright in the ground. So it was important when the children planted the bulbs

that they went into the ground root end first.



Now time for planting. We had yellow daffodils, white daffodils, red tulips and purple grape hyacinths.

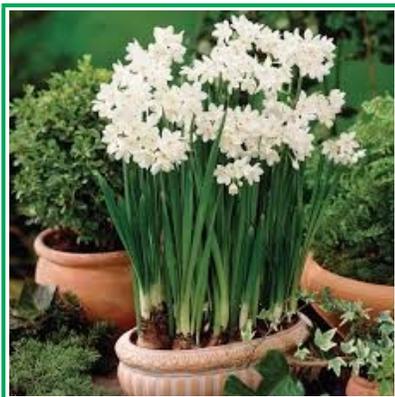
The grape hyacinth bulbs were very small. The children had to make sure to not plant them too deep or they will use up too much energy trying to reach the surface. We were planting these bulbs now as they need to get cold before they will grow. During winter the bulbs will sleep and as soon as it starts to get warmer they know it's time to grow and will grow a flower by springtime.

The younger children planted their bulbs in different sized pots that we placed around the garden. The children from the Beehive planted their bulbs in the wild garden area. We found lots of potatoes growing in the wild garden. A few of the children helped to dig them up. It was suggested that maybe we could CHIT



the potatoes. This means that we try and encourage the potatoes to grow shoots before they are planted. To do this you can store the potatoes in egg boxes in a cool, dry place with some light. Doing this gives the potatoes a head start before they are planted into the ground. One of the year 1 groups took them back to class to do some experiments.

Before the children went in they had a special bulb to plant. These were called Paperwhite Daffodils and the children could take them home. These bulbs had been tricked into thinking it had already



been winter by being put in the cold for a few weeks. This meant they would start growing when planted and by Christmas they should be flowering. The bulbs should also be kept inside rather than planted in the garden.



The children were so lucky to have all these bulbs to plant and everyone was very excited to see the flowers. The garden is going to look beautiful!

Well done everybody!!

Dawn.

