

Community and business links

We are very lucky to have some amazing people, organisations and businesses backing our projects, allowing us to aim high in our endeavours. Through their enthusiasm, kindness and advice, we have been able to extend our knowledge and achieve far more.

“Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it”

Marian Wright Edelman

By proactively seeking to extend our reach out to the wider world, we are giving the children opportunities to experience the diversity of opportunity for their future lives. It gives a “real- life” chance to develop and use skills, such as teamwork, communication, creativity, problem solving, aiming high- giving a purpose and motivation to achieve great results.



Netherton Foundry

It was with great interest that I first spotted Netherton Foundry on a repeat showing of ITV4's series “Made in Britain”- here's a link to view it:

[Watch Netherton Foundry NOW on ITV4's Made In Britain \(netherton-foundry.co.uk\)](http://netherton-foundry.co.uk)

Here's a link to their website- an inspiring story:

[About Us \(netherton-foundry.co.uk\)](http://netherton-foundry.co.uk)

I was very excited when I realised that we were so local to them, so I sent them an email to see if they might be able to help with our outdoor cooking adventures. It was wonderful to be able to meet with Maddy, from the company, for a tour of their amazing, hand-made cookware. We are now the proud owners of some Netherton Foundry cooking equipment for our campfire, made using traditional skills in beautiful Shropshire. We are looking forward to continued links and visits from their craftspeople to demonstrate the manufacturing process and inspire our children with traditional crafts.



Veolia EnviroGrant



EnviroGrant is a community grant run by Veolia working in partnership with Telford & Wrekin Council. We submitted a bid for a grant to create our "Wildlife Window" project. This project was to create a wildlife feeding area, as well as birdbox nesting area. We proposed being able to film our wild visitors using wildlife trail cameras with local Wi-Fi link. To power the system, we would install a solar panel and rechargeable power bank. We awaited the outcome with fingers crossed and were so excited when the answer came back as "Yes"!

Here's a link to the announcement:

[Newsroom - Telford and Wrekin Community groups celebrate receiving Veolia EnviroGrant](#)

We have now set up the area, and it's having great results. We've filmed lots of great wildlife with our cameras and noticed a fantastic increase in visiting bird numbers. Here are some of our videos:

[Footprint Traps in the Hazels - Sir Alexander Fleming Primary School](#)

[A Dragonfly preparing for it's first flight - Sir Alexander Fleming Primary School](#)

[Our Wildlife Window Bird Watch - Sir Alexander Fleming Primary School](#)



We are now expanding our "Wild Windows Project" into our "Wild Corners Project", looking to create wonderful new habitats around the site to improve our biodiversity. Amazing stuff!





Bulhawk Gazebos

Faced with providing sheltered areas during wet weather, we reached out to Bulhawk Gazebos for help. They were so supportive of our work and ambitions, and very kindly offered their help by sending us a fantastic new gazebo! This will enable us to carry on with our fabulously fun adventures and keep dry at the same time. Thank you!

[Bulhawk® - The UK's No 1 Pop-Up Gazebo. Fast & Free UK Delivery.](#)



Friends of Sir Alexander Fleming Primary School

A big thankyou to our Friends group for funding lots of wellies and waterproofs for our fabulous outdoor adventures.



AceOn Group

We linked with AceOn Group, a pioneering energy storage and battery company with over 30 years' experience in the battery industry, during the construction of our polytunnel in the Allotment. They were very keen to help with our project and built a bespoke solar powered irrigation system for us. Have a look at the write-up of the project [here](#):

[OBJ: Green-fingered Pupils Get Blooming Great Energy Boost From AceOn | AceOn Group](#)

We are looking forward to working on future projects with AceOn.



DD Hammocks



When we came up with the idea of creating a meditative, quiet area in the Hazels, the suggestion of using hammocks was made. DD

Hammocks have been a great link to make, and we are looking forward to share news of our ongoing adventures and journey with them. Have a read of our project here:

[DD Charity Update - September 2022 \(ddhammocks.com\)](http://ddhammocks.com)



Lowfield Timber Frames



Lowfield Timber Frames are specialist Timber Frame manufacturers based at a purpose-built headquarters on the Shropshire and Mid Wales border. The hunt for useable recycled timber is an ongoing task for us here at Sir Alexander Fleming Primary School. Due to our limited budget, with so many demands on resources and funding to support the children, it is so important for our projects. Lowfield Timber were very happy and kind to offer to help us with wood for our work, and the quantity supplied has already enabled us, with the children's enthusiastic participation, to construct several pallet dens, a work bench, sawhorse and shave horse. Exciting times, providing opportunities for the children to learn new tool-use skills, creating resources to expand our learning environment, demonstrating to the children that we are part of a much wider community, and all made possible by the kindness of Lowfield Timber.

[Using the sawhorse and whittling 29.11.22 Mr Broderick's class - Sir Alexander Fleming Primary School](#)

[Building a sawhorse - Sir Alexander Fleming Primary School](#)

[Making a Lumber Horse April 2023 - Sir Alexander Fleming Primary School](#)

[Building Benches April 2023 - Sir Alexander Fleming Primary School](#)



The Royal Horticultural Society

Whether you're starting out in your garden or developing an existing area, the School Gardening Awards can help!

[RHS School Gardening Awards / RHS Campaign for School Gardening](#)

The five-level rewards scheme provided achievable goals which helped us to develop our garden, giving focus and guidance to our work, and enabling us to achieve some great successes, turning our garden space into a valuable learning resource.

For Level 3, we demonstrated our growing skills with tools and planting.



For Level 4, we foraged elderflowers to make and sell delicious elderflower cordial. We used the funds raised to build some mini-ponds to create new wildlife habitats.



For Level 5, we had to build a protective shelter for some plants. So, we went LARGE and built our own polytunnel from scratch!



We will be continuing to work with the School Gardening Programme and growing the next generation of horticulturalists!

Our latest, and very proud, moment with the RHS has been to win the Primary School Gardening Team of the Year 2023. This has been a wonderful moment celebrating our past, present and future hard work, fun and adventures in our Allotment and the Hazels. It has had such a fantastic impact on the children's self-esteem and has inspired so many to take up gardening at home.

[The Greenhouse Arrives - Sir Alexander Fleming Primary School](#)

[A visit from Frances Tophill and the RHS - Sir Alexander Fleming Primary School](#)



Hartley Botanic HARTLEY  BOTANIC

As part of our prize for winning the RHS Primary School Gardening Team of the Year, we have been very lucky to receive a Hartley Botanic Greenhouse. It's amazing, and we are looking forward to getting our seedlings underway in it.



The Wrekin Rotary Club



We have been working with the Wrekin Rotary Club. They have been very supportive with our project to create our No-Dig flower meadow by providing 1,600 crocus bulbs and the expertise planting them to ensure an amazing display. Here's our timelapse video of the results:

[Planting Crocus Bulbs with the Gardening Club - Sir Alexander Fleming Primary School](#)

[Crocus News! - Sir Alexander Fleming Primary School](#)

More recently, they have helped with the funding for new resources and tools- a wonderful gift and so important for our present and future activities. Thank you!



Shropshire Master Composters

[Shropshire Master Composters | Garden Organic](#)

Shropshire Master Composters are volunteers who encourage home composting and waste prevention. The group was established in 2006. Over 90 volunteers have since graduated from a special course which is run by Garden Organic with funding and support from Shropshire Council and Veolia Shropshire.

There are volunteers across Shropshire and Telford who encourage composting in their local community by attending events as diverse as school assemblies, farmers markets, flower shows, green days, village fetes and music festivals.



We invited Shropshire Master Composters to come into school to work with our Gardening Club. They were so helpful and improved our knowledge and understanding of the composting process through an informative talk and practical session building a compost heap. We loved it! They have also been in to help build a new leaf mould composting area. Have a read about it here:

[Making a leaf mould compost basket with Gardening Club - Sir Alexander Fleming Primary School](#)



The Urban Worm Community Interest Company

"The Urban Worm CIC is a social enterprise committed to raising the profile of worm farming as the ecological and economical solution for organic waste management and organic agriculture. We support schools, communities, businesses, farmers and families harnessing the power of the humble earthworm to build the foundations for food production to flourish, and for societies to thrive in the face of adversity."

[Home - The Urban Worm](#)



At Sir Alexander Fleming Primary School, we are always looking for new opportunities and experiences to share with the children and were delighted when the Urban Worm Company announced their "1000 Worm Farmers" project. We jumped at the chance to build our own worm farm and were very excited when our wriggly guests arrived. We are now successfully producing our own worm compost to use in our Allotment, and you just can't beat it!

Thankyou so much- and we eagerly await each newsletter to keep up to date with worm news.



[Worm Farmers Year 1 7.3.23 - Sir Alexander Fleming Primary School](#)

Green wood supplies

Much of what we do revolves around exploring and seeing the beauty in the natural materials around us. A mainstay of this is green wood. We use it for so many of our projects and activities such as den and shelter building, games and problem solving activities, whittling, building and more besides. We have planted trees to enable us to nurture and grow our own supplies in our "Future Forest", but at present we rely upon the kindness of others to help with our wood

needs. So a huge thankyou to Judie, Benno, Barry and Derek who offered access to their woodlands and woodpiles to keep us busy and productive. Here are some hazel harvesting photos- a great way to spend an afternoon on the weekend.



Using some hazel for our "Stickmen" competition.



Have a look at some whittling in action:

[Leaf mould, leaf pizza and whittling! Year 2 11.11.22 - Sir Alexander Fleming Primary School](#)



The Reflex Group Bursary Scheme

We have been so lucky this year to have received funding from the newly launched Reflex Group Bursary Scheme. Have a read about their aims and hopes for this new funding for local groups and communities:

[The Reflex Group Bursary Scheme: Making a Local Impact Together!](#)
[| Reflex Labels | The Reflex Group](#)

We have been struggling to achieve funding for the resources needed to realise our hopes to unlock the potential of our Outdoor Learning provision. Although we are growing most adept at recycling and reusing materials in inventive ways, we have still faced the challenge of having to buy tools and resources essential for our woodworking, gardening, science, cooking and other adventures. It has proven to be one of the main obstacles with no funding to

address this. So, when we were successfully nominated to receive support, we were over the moon! This kindness has allowed us to purchase a wide range of tools and equipment for enabling the children to gain so much more with their time outside. Here's our new tools and science resources. It's a fantastic new range of resources, all ready to give even greater purpose to our adventures, extend knowledge and broaden horizons. Thank you to all at the Reflex Group for your kindness and support.



Here's a link to them using some new magnifiers to identify and study craneflies- it was so lovely to see the fascinated expressions and opening of minds to really learn about these amazing little creatures:

[Catching craneflies and getting active - Sir Alexander Fleming Primary School](#)

[Plant Adaptations with Miss Brown's Class 15.9.23 - Sir Alexander Fleming Primary School](#)



HOTBIN[®]
composting

HotBin Composting

We couldn't believe our luck when, our very own, Miss Brown announced she'd won a competition on the Allotment Online website, with the prize being a brand-new HotBin Composter! Here's the announcement page:

[Previous winners | Allotment Online](#)

We've opted for the 200-litre bin and are now the very excited owners of this fantastic bit of kit- a new and exciting type of composting. Here's a link to explain the science behind it:

[The Science of HOTBIN Composting](#)

This is a great addition to our growing stable of composting methods- worm composting, leaf mould baskets, and compost bays. Very exciting and what a great way to share this fascinating process of recycling with the children. A huge thankyou to Allotment Online, Hot Bin Composting and, of course, Miss Brown for entering the competition!





Councillors' Pride Fund

Our wonderful local councillors are keen supporters of our journey to create a first-class outdoor learning provision at Sir Alexander Fleming Primary School. Having highlighted to them a need for a robust, firepit shelter in the Hazels, they were very happy to help with its funding through the Councillors' Pride Fund. This allowed for the installation of our new shelter, called "The Haven". A lovely space that acts as a hub for our activities in the Hazels.

Read all about the construction here:

[The Big Build Update - Sir Alexander Fleming Primary School](#)

It has had such a positive impact on our work outdoors, and the children are so proud of this wonderful space. They have worked hard to landscape the area around it, resulting in a beautiful wildflower garden that we enjoyed over the spring and summer:

[Building paths and teamwork with Miss Halls Class 16.2.23 - Sir Alexander Fleming Primary School](#)

[Making a new pond 16.3.23 - Sir Alexander Fleming Primary School](#)

[Our Beautiful Summer Flowers - Sir Alexander Fleming Primary School](#)

They are now supporting us in creating an art, crafting and cooking area. Thankyou for your help in all that we do.



Field Studies Council

The Field Studies Council were very supportive of our projects and ambitions, sending us a great selection of wildlife identification guides.



Shropshire Wildlife Trust

It was lovely to welcome Ellie, from the Shropshire Wildlife Trust, to our site. She came to share her knowledge and pass on some great resources and tips to improve our shelter building skills. A fantastic experience for our children.





The Woodland Trust



The Tree Council

Looking to plant a forest, hedge, or orchard at your school? Look no further than these great organisations. They provided us with lots of free saplings to get our "Future Forest" and Orchard planted.

