

MAKE IT

**THE
GROWING
SCHOOLS GARDEN**

**LEARNING OUTSIDE
THE CLASSROOM**

Woodland and Willow Nest

Tree Dressings

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Tree Dressings



Description

Tree dressing draws on traditions from cultures all round the world that involve decorating significant and special trees with a variety of materials.

Function

The dressings will be used to decorate the trees, and some structures, in the garden. The tree dressings may reflect a particular area of study, theme or interest in your school or setting e.g. different cultural traditions, sustainability etc. As well as being decorative, you may like to incorporate messages or pledges in your dressings for visitors to the garden to read.

Construction

Sizes

Various sizes are possible from a few centimeters in height to 50cm. The majority should be around 15cm. Numerous exhibits, styles and themes are required.

Special Details

Wire, string or twine should be incorporated to allow the dressings to be fastened into the trees.

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Materials

A range of materials and colours can be used. The dressings should be as weatherproof as possible. The use of recycled materials is encouraged where appropriate.

Contributing schools

Bertie's Playgroup, Kent



Crispin School, Somerset

Pupils have made decorative rings containing found objects. They represent a visual map of our local place, and will be hung to decorate trees.

'It has been an amazing experience. We've had the opportunity to try lots of new skills and work on a special project. I have used green withies whilst my friends used old shoelaces to knot around a withy ring. Some of the ideas are new and creative. It's given me lots to think about, especially when it is for a major and important flower show. We can use some of these now in school.'

Becky, Year 8

Esh Winning Primary School, Durham

We used polystyrene balls and decorated them using recycled sweet papers. We used old CDs and decorated them. To personalise the CDs each child wrote a wish e.g. Rachel wished for a baby brother, Megan wished to be happy in her new school. The children then attached something personal to themselves e.g. a lucky charm, jewellery etc.

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Broadlands Primary School, Hereford

A variety of tree dressings were produced by different year groups linked to topics undertaken during the year.

Nursery: A bead and feather 'African' mobile

Year 1: Joined hands of recycled factory waste with 'Values' messages

Year 2: Minibeasts made from recycled materials

Year 3: Mosaic apples linking Herefordshire with a study of the Romans

Year 5: Ceramic tubes made from 'Herefordshire'-type clay, depicting 'Values'



'Each class has made tree dressings which were all brilliant. It has been a really special privilege to be able to work on this project.' Year 6 pupil

Fair Oak Infant School, Hampshire

Every child in the school (360 pupils) was invited to make a tree dressing at home based on traditional or new ideas relating to their class country. Tree dressings not taken to Hampton Court have been hung in our own grounds.

'I liked making my tree dressing because I used recycled things' Beccy



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Hintlesham and Chattisham C. of E. V.C. Primary School, Suffolk

We made five tree dressings to illustrate different areas of Suffolk life: woods, seashore, village signs, fields and the Suffolk Trinity (Suffolk Punch heavy horse, Red Poll cattle and Suffolk sheep).



Leedstown Community Primary School, Cornwall

We made five tree dressings in the form of pyramidal bamboo-and-paper lanterns, decorated with pressed plant material. (See heading photograph.)

'I want one of these for my room!'

Perranporth County Primary School, Cornwall (left), Portway Junior School, Hampshire (right)



The Coombes Infant School, Berkshire

We regularly make tree hangings from natural materials gathered by the children from our own grounds. The designs and materials used will vary with the seasons. The ones for the show garden were made from 'green' willow and include fleece gathered from our recently sheared sheep, reeds and grasses.

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In the garden

