

Summer Holiday

Watering at a glance

With the end of term approaching, we've put together suggestions on how to manage care and watering during the summer holidays. Take a look at our top tips and handy resources to turn the summer watering dilemma into a fun project for your class or group.

1 Ask staff or pupils to take small plants home

Why not create a summer challenge for your pupils by asking them to each look after a plant at home - ask staff to get involved too! **See the next pages for resources** to help turn your watering dilemma into an exciting school project, including a certificate for your pupils to recognise their help, care tips and more.

- Announce the project in your school newsletter so that parents and carers are aware.
- After the holidays, set a date for everyone to bring their plants back in – compare and discuss how it went, and why they all might look different: what have you learned about plants?
- Remember, it's okay if some didn't survive! Frame this as a learning experience, and make sure every child is rewarded for taking part.

2 Ask site staff to look after your plants

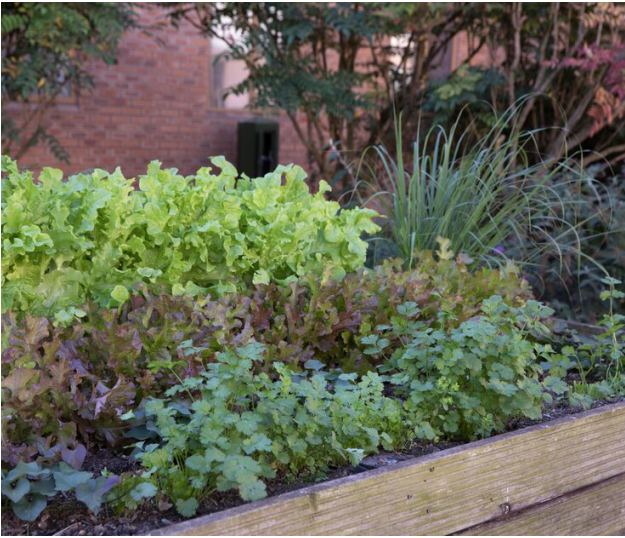
If site staff will be in school during the holidays, collect all plants into one area and ask if they can be watered regularly.

Top tip! Set calendar reminders for watering.

3 Mulch your outdoor plants

Mulching can retain moisture and suppress weeds! Cover bare soil and the surface of compost in your containers with a layer of wood chippings, bark or gravel.





4 Create a self-watering solution

- Wicking: Fill a bucket with water and add cords (or shoelaces) leading from the water into the soil to keep your plants hydrated over the summer. You will need more wicks for larger containers or plants that need more water.
- Guttering: Can site or D&T staff help to create a watering system by linking rain gutters to your beds?



5 Ask a community space to foster your plants

If you already have a relationship with a community garden, nursing or care home or another local organisation, they may be willing to look after your school seedlings over the holidays, for you to collect at the start of term.

6 If not...keep your plants outside

If no other solutions are available, keep your seedlings/plants outside on your school grounds. Make sure they:

- Are sat in a tray or saucer to collect rainwater (fill this up with water before you head home for the holidays to get them off to a good start)
- Are placed in a shady area that will require less watering. Grouping plants together will also increase humidity around them and reduce need for watering
- Are on a table or raised platform to keep them away from animals



Keep reading for...

- Top tips from schools
- Care leaflet with recording sheet to print
- Certificates for your pupils

Top *tips* from schools

“If you have some keen teachers, TAs and parents it makes life much easier! ...Get them doing lots of mucky jobs like watering and mulching!”

Andy Garland

“Have motivated staff to encourage the children... enter lots of competitions to win things and get the parents involved.”

Sam Jackson

“Get help from parents and grandparents, then get a few raised beds near classrooms so they have easy access to help water. Have one or two key people in school to drive it along.”

Nicola Webzell

“We have a summer parent watering team”

Wendy Crowder

“Speak to your local wildlife trust, allotment society or gardening groups.”

Jay Evans

Top tips to look after me:

- 1** Keep me in a sunny spot like a windowsill, or outside if the weather is good
- 2** Water me weekly, or more if it's been hot!
- 3** If outside, put me on a table to stop me getting eaten by animals
- 4** If you go on holiday, can a neighbour or friend look after me?
- 5** Watch me grow! Fill out the recording sheet inside to keep track of how I'm doing

I am a

.....

Thank you!

for looking after me

Watering record

Name:

My plant is a:

Date	Have I been watered?	Where am I?	How am I doing? (1-5)	Notes
24th - 30th July			/5	
31st July - 6th August			/5	
7th - 13th August			/5	
14th - 20th August			/5	
21st - 27th August			/5	
28th August - 3rd September			/5	



Watering certificate

Thank you!

.....

took home and watered our school plants
over the holidays

Signed: