

FOOTPRINT

NEW BEGINNINGS

Since our last issue, we've seen some really positive progress toward our OPL goals. Particularly under the 'sustainable water' and 'Zero waste' principles:

 Zero waste



The hall was decorated with glorious homemade decorations and some foraged flora for our Christmas celebration in December, continuing to drive forward our goals to reduce, reuse, recycle and rethink. The children were awarded certificates for their incredible achievement and gifted some festive treats to enjoy too.

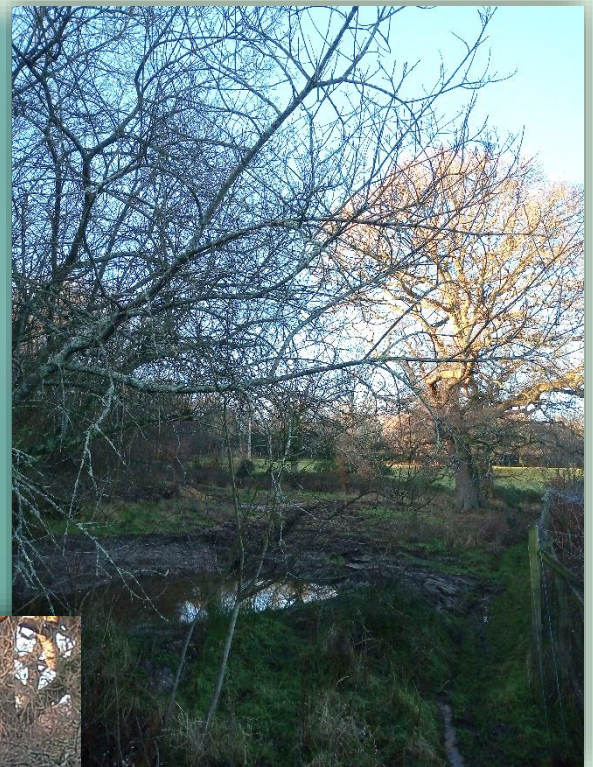




 Sustainable water

Progress on the pond and its pathway to adventure play continues...

Clay from another part of our site was taken to reline the pond and keep the water tightly in, and the natural spring under our 'hill', combined with rain, has naturally filled it to the brim. Since then, we've had reports of deer visiting each morning to drink the fresh water - which shows how a small change can make a huge difference to our local wildlife.



The spring has also been diverted away from the top of the back field, to make the area drier. although it remains flowing just enough into the allotment, allowing our wonderful veg to grow while reducing our overall water use.



Want to #makeonechange?



HHS are looking for new OPL committee members - people passionate about the Eco life and ready to have even more positive influence on the school.

We will welcome colleagues who are happy to meet with your fellow team members each term, and collaborate on ways to genuinely make our school as green as possible.



Committee members get to;

- Support change for good within Hill House and the wider community
- Help kids do fun eco stuff like bug hunting and relaxing in nature
- Be part of genuinely implementing next steps for HHS' future sustainability.



Don't forget to submit your Green Dragon's Den entries! The entry form is saved here: [Y:\GDD 2025 Entry Form.docx](#)





Pollinators in the New Forest

The British Beekeeper's Association have been in touch to make us aware of Yellow Legged Hornets currently in France. As we are closely located, and have some busy ports surrounding the New Forest, they are asking staff to be conscious they may have ventured into our area, and inviting us to bring the importance of pollinators and species identification in to learning at HHS. Accurate reports of sightings are very helpful to their organisation too so if you spot one you can click the link: [Yellow-legged Hornet » APHA - National Bee Unit - BeeBase](#)

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|  |  |
| Yellow-legged hornet | European hornet |
| <i>Vespa velutina</i> | <i>Vespa crabro</i> |
| <p>Legs: Yellow at ends</p> <p>Head: Black from above, orange face</p> <p>Thorax: Black and velvety</p> <p>Abdomen: Mainly black with one obvious yellow/orange band</p> <p>Size: < 2.5 cm abdomen to head Queens up to 3 cm</p> <p>Activity: Never active at night</p> | <p>Brown</p> <p>Brown from above, yellow face</p> <p>Black and brown</p> <p>Mainly yellow with black bands, spot marks like 'dripping paint'</p> <p>larger: < 3 cm abdomen to head</p> <p>Queens up to 3.5 cm</p> <p>May be active at night</p> |

SAFETY INFORMATION: If you see a Yellow Legged Hornet's Nest, the advice is to move at least ten metres away as they may perceive passers-by as a danger to their nest.