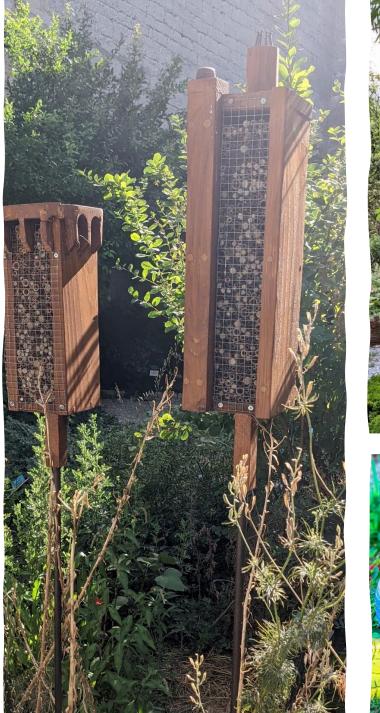# Recycle in Your Garden!

From the Yorkshire Gardens Trust Schools Group

With thanks to the YGT Schools team and Emily Rose at Oxspring Primary School, Sheffield, Ravensthorpe CE VC Junior School, Dewsbury, and the Medieval garden of Uzes, France.

Principles to follow:

- Be creative!
- Make compost
- Save water
- Propagate more plants by taking cuttings, saving and sowing seeds, and taking root cuttings
- Try not to spend money
- Try not to use new materials
- Reuse items found from around the school and from within the school's community (parents, businesses)

Ideas

- Make a pizza oven from bricks, clay and sand.

- Grow coppiced willow or dogwood to weave for edging, with canes to make climbing plant supports, with posts made from branches to form fences, to make play houses…

- Ask a local tree surgeon if you can have their mulched waste to use in your garden

- Make log seats from locally-felled trees for camp fire or story time areas

- Upcycle old tyres as planters, either lain horizontally on the ground or hung vertically from fencing

- Use pallets, old bricks, rooftiles etc to make bug hotels

- Make musical instruments from drainpipes, posts, metal bowls etc

- Use 'Gardening for Kids' if you requested a copy from us in 2022

- Harvest and dry seeds with the children, store in labelled paper bags until sowing

More ideas

- Make pesticides from plants you grow

- Use spare wood to make plant supports and edging

- Ask parents for any unwanted materials. One school repurposed a parent's shed

- Collect lollipop sticks to use as seed labels

- Reuse plastic or paper coffee cups or yogurt pots as plant pots. Remember to put drainage holes in the bottom with a skewer!

- Reuse plastic bottles. The top half make good cloches or propagators, and the bottom plant pots with added drainage holes

- Collect rainwater to water your plants on a dry day. Use a child-safe water butt if you have space and funds. If not, even empty watering cans left out in the rain can collect this valuable resource!