



AUTUMN 2021

**Our pledge is to work toward a
green future for our children
and for the future of our planet.**

We pledge a tree for every final year primary school child in Wymondham. In the Autumn term of 2021 each pupil will receive a sapling in a soil plug, suitable for planting in a small garden, for raising in a pot in a courtyard, or for planting in a public area to be sourced with our aid. Your trees have been chosen with biodiversity, nature connectivity, clean air and small gardens in mind. We hope that you will plant your sapling with care, and maybe even a secret message with your name on it, saying this is your tree planted with hope for your green future on this day in 2021.

Trees take time to grow. Perhaps they don't look like much to begin with. They need protection at first, enough water, not too much interference. Some will grow and thrive. If they don't, don't worry, but persevere - plant another one, or several.

Trees are essential for the health of our environment. When established they hold carbon, and when they are old and big, they hold huge amounts of carbon, which is good for the climate. Trees and hedges provide valuable habitat for birds and many species of invertebrates. When leaves shed in the winter, they decompose, adding food to the soil and providing shelter for wildlife. Leaves make a great mulch for your garden when gathered and combined with manure. Trees take up water whereas pavements, roads and deforested land can and do cause run-offs and flooding. Trees signal to other trees, and share nutrients with each other too (can you believe it?) through the soil. Trees keep our planet cooler, and are vital for our future.

By the way, trees can be cut into hedges if you are worried about them growing too big. Hedges, and hedgehogs too, matter. And just so you know, if a larger established tree and house seem to live in harmony with each other despite close proximity, it is better not to disturb that relationship.

We pledge these trees for your green future and for ours, with love and hope.

Greening Wymondham

IMAGINE A GREEN FUTURE

Your tree was purchased from the Woodland Trust. These slightly edited planting guidelines, and **also a planting video**, can be found online at **woodlandtrust.org.uk**.

When to plant your tree:

Your tree has been supplied in its own plug of compost and can therefore be planted, ideally within 1 week of receiving it, whatever time of year. You could plant it into a nice pot.

When your tree arrives:

Store the tree upright, sheltered from frost and wind. Ensure the soil plug, enclosing the tree roots, does not dry out.

Prepare your site:

- Decide on the location of your tree. We have done our best to source trees suitable for small gardens, and varied enough to contribute usefully to biodiversity in Wymondham. Protect it against injury with a tree guard or stake.
- If your planting area is overgrown, cut the grass short and weed. This will make planting easier and reduce competition for water, helping your sapling to thrive.
- Be careful to avoid underground services while digging your pit. There is no evidence that tree roots interfere with services.

Pit planting:

Pit planting is suitable for all ground types, but it can be difficult if you have stony soil. Because you live in Wymondham you may have clay soil. 1. Dig a hole larger than the plug containing the roots and deep enough; put your tree in the hole to check. Refill the hole, and press down to make sure the tree is secure. 2. Put a stake just to the side of the tree if using. 3. If using a spiral, open it up at one end, and gently wind it up to the top. Push it down into the ground 1 cm, so the vermin don't get in.

