



Cadishead Primary School

Thursday 31st January 2019

Weather: Cold

Growing Outside

Children: Y4P

Compost

This week, the other year 4 class have been learning about **compost**.



We also looked at **soil** and **compost** samples to compare them and the children were surprised that they were different. Some children were already familiar with compost because they make it at home with their parents/grandparents.

Next we made a soil 'cake' to demonstrate what soil is made up of. One child stirred the mixture in a bucket while the other children added the ingredients: **green plants, dead plants, sand, stones, rocks, water and insects** (don't worry - we used plastic ones so that we wouldn't hurt real ones!). The children guessed how long it would take before the mixture turned into soil like the sample we had seen. The children could not believe that it can take between **200-400 years** to make 1cm of soil! At that point they decided to give up on stirring our mixture! This activity also helped the children understand that soil doesn't just exist, it is *made*, in nature, over a very long period of time.



Fortunately, making compost is relatively quicker. The children looked at the new compost bin that the other Year 4s had made out of pallets last week and then we

went round school collecting things to compost. We collected **shredded paper** from the office and **fruit scraps** from Y1 and Y2.

We also pulled up the **dead flowers** from the wildflower meadow but we made sure to shake off the seed heads before we added this to the compost bin.



Our compost will also need more green plants so we will ask the gardeners to add grass clippings when they cut the field in spring.

Hopefully our mixture will be ready to use when you are in Year 5!

Until then, keep adding things to compost!

See you soon,

Catherine

