

December 2023

Winter is a resting time for plants. The garden sleeps. Yes, but not the gardeners! After consulting our RHS calendar, the decision has been made. We want an apple tree! Can we afford one? From 'Sharing is Caring' box we have collected £11.43, which is just enough to order the smallest Dwarf Gala Apple tree. Done.



The packet arrived the following week, and we couldn't wait to open it. We have our first apple tree!



Excited, we walked around the school looking for the best spot to plant the tiny apple tree, discussing various options. Eventually, we have found an empty pot, big enough to house a dwarf apple tree. It

is located in a perfect spot, outdoors in a quiet patio, surrounded by windows allowing us to monitor the growth. It will be also easy to water the tree, so we hope for a delicious apple pie soon!



Young gardeners remembered also to check the plants growing outside. Surprise, surprise! Not only Calendulas are blooming, but also the strawberries. Does it mean we will eat fresh berries in January? No, it's too cold. A few sunny days confused the plants. The best we can do to help the young strawberries survive their first winter is to remove the flowers, which unnecessarily draw energy, pull out the weeds around them and mulch to protect them from frost.

Looking at dry or wilting plants is heartbreaking, but we know they will grow back in spring if we only help them survive the winter. A blanket from dry leaves should do.

And now a puzzle: what is the yellow, round fruit? Well, it's a... pumpkin! We planted it in June, a bit too late to be ready by Halloween. That is why it is only "ready" now. But why is it so small? The answer most probably is the poor soil in the last raised bed, with not enough water, as it is the furthest one. We need to remember about it when planning and preparing our garden for the next season.



Before Christmas holidays we had to prepare our plants for the break. Some of the pots were taken to good homes, others were checked, tidied up and watered well. We will come back soon!

