



## The Woodland League "Forest in a Box" Native Tree Seed Incubator Project

Andrew St. Ledger recently visited Bronagh's 3<sup>rd</sup> Class on 28th February 2018 and talked to the class about the importance of trees, biodiversity, and the layers of the forest.

In the afternoon Andrew and the children set up a Woodland League gifted "Forest in a Box" to grow native trees for local communities. Swords Educate Together N.S. is delighted and thrilled to be one of only 10 schools nationwide chosen to participate in this amazing project. The project is funded under the Local Agenda 21 funding, by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment and Fingal County Council.

The Forest in a Box replicates the forest floor with leaf litter, pine needles and seeds from native trees such as acorns (oak trees) and hazelnuts (hazel tree). The children planted these seeds in the leaf litter where they will sprout into saplings. These saplings will be transplanted into soil next year. The year after these young trees will be donated to local communities in our area. Andrew explained that although this is a local Sustainable Development Project it has Global impact for Climate Change. He also said that, "the children are investing in their own sustainable future in a unique way that combines the past, present, and future. It is amazing that some of the acorns are from the legendary local Brian Boru oak tree, reputedly 1000 years old."

The children have gained so much from Andrew's follow up visit to our school (25<sup>th</sup> April 2018). 28 children from 3<sup>rd</sup> Class and 16 Green Team members listened and participated in a captivating interactive workshop on biodiversity and layers of the forest. The children especially loved handling the various types of wood that Andrew brought with him for this workshop. SETNS has recently been awarded their 5<sup>th</sup> Green Flag for Biodiversity and having the Woodland League's "Forest in a Box" project was a contributing factor. The Fingal Independent Newspaper also covered our Biodiversity Green Flag success and The Woodland League was mentioned and children were photographed at the box.

We are thankful and grateful to The Woodland League and Fingal County Council for the opportunity to participate in this excellent initiative.

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