



Summer holiday watering at a glance

With the end of term approaching, we've put together suggestions on how to manage care and watering during the summer holidays. Take a look at our top tips and handy resources to turn the summer watering dilemma into a fun project for your class or group.



2 Ask a community space to foster your plants

If you already have a relationship with a community garden, nursing or care home or another local organisation, they may be willing to look after potted plants over the holidays, for you to collect at the start of term.

1 Simple self-watering

- **Wicking:** Fill a bucket with water and add cords (or shoelaces) leading from the water into the soil to keep your plants hydrated over the summer. You will need more wicks for larger containers or plants that need more water
- **Guttering:** Can site or D&T staff help to create a watering system by linking rain gutters to your beds?

3 Mulch your outdoor plants

Mulching can retain moisture and suppress weeds! Cover bare soil with a layer of wood chippings, bark or gravel.



4 Ask staff or pupils to take them home

Why not create a summer challenge for your pupils by asking them to each look after a plant at home - ask staff to get involved too! **See the next pages for resources** to help turn your watering dilemma into an exciting school project, including a certificate for your pupils to recognise their help, care tips and more.

- Announce the project in your school newsletter so that parents and carers are aware
- After the holidays, set a date for everyone to bring their plants back in – compare and discuss how it went, and why they all might look different: what have you learned about plants?
- Remember, it's okay if some didn't survive! Frame this as a learning experience, and make sure every child is rewarded for taking part



5 Ask site staff to look after your plants

If site staff will be in school during the holidays, why not ask if the school plants can be watered weekly or in dry, warm spells? This is ideal if your plants are in the ground or too large to be moved.

Top tip! Set calendar reminders for watering

6 If not...keep your plants outside

If no other solutions are available, keep potted plants outside on your school grounds. Make sure they are:

- Sat in a tray or saucer to collect rainwater (fill this up with water before you head home for the holidays to get them off to a good start)
- Placed in a shady area that will require less watering. Grouping plants together will also increase humidity around them and reduce need for watering
- On a table or raised platform to keep them away from animals



Find out more about switching from mains water to rainwater at mains2rains.uk

Top tips from schools

“If you have some keen teachers, TAs and parents it makes life much easier!
...Get them doing lots of mucky jobs like watering and mulching!”

Andy Garland



“Have motivated staff to encourage the children... enter lots of competitions to win things and get the parents involved.”

Sam Jackson



“Get help from parents and grandparents, then get a few raised beds near classrooms so they have easy access to help water. Have one or two key people in school to drive it along.”

Nicola Webzell



“We have a summer parent watering team”

Wendy Crowder

“Speak to your local wildlife trust, allotment society or gardening groups.”

Jay Evans



Top tips to look after me

1

Keep me in a sunny spot like a windowsill, or outside if the weather is good

2

Water me if the soil dries out

3

If outside, put me on a table to stop me getting eaten by animals

4

If you go on holiday, can a neighbour or friend look after me?

5

Watch me grow! Fill out the recording sheet inside to keep track of how I'm doing

Thank you for looking after me

I am a

.....

rhs.org.uk/growwithit

Watering record

Name:

My plant is a:

Week	Have I been watered?	Where am I?	How am I doing? (1-5)	Notes
1	<input type="checkbox"/> Mains <input type="checkbox"/> Rains <input type="text"/> Times watered		/5	
2	<input type="checkbox"/> Mains <input type="checkbox"/> Rains <input type="text"/> Times watered		/5	
3	<input type="checkbox"/> Mains <input type="checkbox"/> Rains <input type="text"/> Times watered		/5	
4	<input type="checkbox"/> Mains <input type="checkbox"/> Rains <input type="text"/> Times watered		/5	
5	<input type="checkbox"/> Mains <input type="checkbox"/> Rains <input type="text"/> Times watered		/5	
6	<input type="checkbox"/> Mains <input type="checkbox"/> Rains <input type="text"/> Times watered		/5	

Plant care certificate

Thank you!



took home and watered our school plants
over the holidays



Signed:

Date: