

Grow your own Oak Tree

Dear Little Oaks,

Congratulations! Green shoots have appeared, and the life of a new little oak tree has begun. It is now very important we take care of our little saplings to ensure they have the best possible start in life. It is therefore time to check on those little oak trees you planted. You will need to follow the instructions below.

Best wishes

Timber

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Roots

You will need to remove the sapling from the pot you planted it in, very carefully too, as we do not want to damage the roots. If you have used a yoghurt pot it will be best to cut the pot off now with scissors. Try to keep the clump of soil together, as it is, therefore protecting the roots. Check at the bottom of the cluster of soil – are the roots coming out of the bottom? If so, it is time to repot into a bigger pot.

2. Repotting

It is now time to repot into a new home, that is at least 30cm tall. Find a suitable pot, and you can really use any type – just as long as it is a minimum of 30cm tall. Ensure there are drainage holes at the bottom, if there is not then make your own, as we did before.

3. Planting.

Now fill your pot with soil/ compost and put a handful of stones in and mix around to ensure good drainage. You will now need to make a hole in the centre of the soil large enough to completely submerge your sapling and the surrounding soil into. Place your sapling into that space. Now cover entire surface with compost/ soil (being careful not to cover the sapling), and pat down so everything is nice and even.

4. Water

Gently water the soil/ compost, let the water drain off and place the pots outside somewhere that will catch plenty of sun during the day. Then just let nature do its job. One word of warning, if there is going to be a frost or snow – which as we know is very likely this winter, it will be worth bringing your saplings in overnight, just to ensure they don't get too cold.

Look after this small shoot, gently watering when necessary, and let it grow in the pot. How amazing to think this small acorn that you foraged, will grow for another 100 years at least, and become a massive English Oak Tree! Very well done little Oaks, we are so very proud of you!

