The Orchard

at

SBC

In the Spring of 2023, the pupils at SBC planted an orchard of apple, plum and pear trees.

The trees were donated by former parent, Paddy Dunne, who works for EU Networks Ireland Private Fibre Ltd.

EU Networks are partnered with Host Ireland and are affiliated with the “DCs for Bees Initiative”. The company has participated in an “Orchards in the Community” drive in recent years, whereby sapling orchard trees are offered up for planting in local communities/schools.

Once established, these trees will flower in late April and May before bearing fruit in the Autumn.

Bees are our main pollinators and are entirely dependent on plants for their food. The young are fed exclusively on pollen and the adults rely on nectar as an energy source. Whilst feeding on the flowering trees in our School Orchard and on wild flowers planted around Garraí Bhríde, the bees transfer pollen between flowers and so act as pollinators. Bees move the pollen from flower to flower and this makes new seeds. The new seeds will grow into new plants next year. Pollination ensures that fruit and seeds are produced each new year.

So, at SBC, we are making sure that bees are being provided with a home and some valuable work to do on our orchard/farm. For further information, go the DCs for Bees at hostinireland/and.com.

<https://www.hostinireland.com/dc-s-for-bees>