

## Schools environmental initiative sees 60,000 daffodil bulbs planted during Daffodil Week

By Sarah Cosgrove Wednesday, 16 October 2013

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*600 London schoolchildren got involved in the planting in Hyde Park*

Hundreds of children have planted 60,000 daffodil bulbs along the Serpentine in Hyde Park as part of Daffodil Week this week.

The 600 children from London schools are helping to restore the daffodils along Serpentine Road. They have been dying back in recent years, exacerbated by the wet summer in 2012 and the last cold winter.

Independent Francis Holland School in Sloane Square worked with the Royal Parks Foundation to raise £35,000 needed for the planting in May.

Headmistress Lucy Elphinstone said: "Parents, pupils and friends of Francis Holland School all caught the vision of creating a legacy for London."

Royal Parks Foundation chief executive Sara Lom said it was wonderful to have so many young helpers.

"The children really enjoy the getting their hands dirty. For them, it's a fun day out, but it also serves a more serious purpose, it helps children understand more about their environment, it encourages them to become gardeners in the future, and it helps us in our aim of conservation in the heart of London."

Daffodil Week is part of Green Fingers in the Park, a wider initiative of environmental education connecting London's school children with the city's green spaces. 40,000 bluebells were planted in Spring 2013 and next year, the Royal Parks Foundation plans to invite local school children to plant 100,000 snowdrops in Hyde Park.