

COVENTRY YOUNG AMBASSADOR JAPANESE PEACE GARDEN

For the past two years Broad Heath, Finham, Howes, Park Hill and Stivichall primary schools have been participating in a Cities of Peace project in collaboration with the Japan Society, London and Between the Stones.

Pupils have taken part in a wide range of activities including writing peace poems on tanzaku which were displayed in Coventry Cathedral and the Embassy of Japan. They have also had workshops with internationally renowned Noh actors and with a master mask maker. They were able to have a videoconference with a survivor of the Hiroshima atomic bombing.

The final part of this project has been to design and build a Japanese Peace Garden in the War Memorial Park. The children have called their garden 'Islands of Peace'. Peace and reconciliation are symbolised through two islands, made from boulders, being joined by a stone bridge. They are surrounded by silver granite gravel representing water. The garden will be adjoined by a cherry grove.

Pupils from all five schools started work on building the garden on 16th September. They have helped to dig foundations and they have done some bricklaying of the wall that will surround the garden. The next phases will be to add a partial roof to the wall; strip the turf; put the large boulders and bridge in position; plant a yew hedge; plant other trees including ginkgo, magnolia and cherry; design and install an information board and create educational materials.

Most of the work will take place over the next two months. The garden will be officially opened by the Ambassador from the Embassy of Japan and the Lord Mayor of Coventry on 26th March 2021.

We encourage all families to visit the installation of the Islands of Peace Japanese Peace Garden, which is situated next to the aviary at the War Memorial Park.

For more information about the project, please go to <https://www.betweenthestones.com/japanese-peace-garden/introduction>

