

The Forest School Allotment Group



We have been incredibly busy on our allotment over the past year.

We began in September last year by harvesting the crops that we had planted over the previous season. We were particularly proud of our magnificent pumpkins, leeks and potatoes. We had an abundant harvest of Jerusalem artichokes too, in fact they seemed to be taking over the whole allotment at one point! We harvested onions and green beans, which we took back to school to be used during food technology lessons. Mrs. Brooke made great use of some of the beans during science, where the children investigated seed germination.

During the cooler autumn months and into the winter, our time was spent clearing and preparing the soil for springtime planting. We had lots of maintenance work that needed to be carried out too. We repaired our boundary fence using willow whips to create a traditional hedge. We also made a compost bin using recycled sections of our old school boundary fencing. We collected wood chip which was kindly donated by Stockwell Road Allotment Group. We spread this between the paths and raised beds to keep everything looking neat and tidy.

We learned how to safely use secateurs, when we pruned our cherry tree, and our redcurrant and blackcurrant bushes. We needed to do this to remove dead wood and ensure new healthy growth.

As the spring approached it was now time to start planning.

We planted pumpkin and sunflower seeds, which we kept in the cold frame at school until it was warm enough to plant them out at our allotment. We have also planted peas, courgettes, tomatoes, and a new strawberry bed.

Our most exciting project has been the creation of a new wildlife pond. We used a large water play container which we rescued from the skip following renovation and landscaping work that was taking place in Buttercup Class

We had to dig a huge hole, then we lowered the container in, ensuring it was level. We all enjoyed filling it up with water. Mrs. Hall brought some 'bio rich' sludge from her pond at home, and Mrs. Watson brought some Iris plants and oxygenating weed from her pond. It will take a little time to fully mature, but we are hoping to attract lots of different animal species to this newly created habitat. Along with our wildflower plot, we feel proud that we are helping our planet by creating a rich and diverse environment which will be an invaluable resource for all the pollinating insects which are so important for the future health of our planet.

It has been a privilege for Mrs. Watson and I to have spent our Wednesday afternoons with such a wonderful group of young people. They have all worked incredibly hard and we are very proud of all that they have achieved. We are looking forward to autumn and another bumper harvest.

Enjoy the holidays.

We look forward to seeing you in September.

Mrs. Watson and Mrs. Hall



