

St. Mary's Gardening Club

We have had a very busy start to the gardening year. This has been made possible thanks to our new volunteers who have generously given up their time to help: Jacob's grandma Mrs Sutch, Evan's mum Mrs Richardson, Jem's grandmas, Mrs Milson & Mrs Whitehead, and Maeve and Rose's grandma and grandad Mr & Mrs Heap. They have all been welcome additions to Grandad Jim, Mrs Buckley, Mrs Sandoe, Mrs McCubbin and Mrs Payne and Mrs Kane.

A big thank you to the PTA. With monies raised from plant sales and produce giveaways, we have invested in some early flowering bulbs to brighten up our Mary garden and the bed at the door to the school entrance.

GARDENING ACTIVITIES THIS HALF TERM

Years 1 & 2 have been busy around the school this half term with gardening jobs. They have been ably assisted with watering duties by two children from Year 6. Three children from Year 3 also tidied the flower beds and planted some winter flowering pansies in the Early Years playground. Here is a flavour of the projects our gardeners have been involved with.

Sustainability

- Great excitement! We have had some fantastic results with our composting efforts from last year. Thanks to the hardwork of Joshua's dad, Tom, Grandad Trevor and Grandad Jim, we have been able to rotate our compost stores. This week, Year 2 helped to sieve and top up the vegetables beds with the lovely new soil - all made from our own garden waste.
- Our homemade leaf mould from last year's fallen leaves from the Picasso garden was sieved and sorted. It has made a beautiful mixture and has gone into our own potting compost mix.
- Soil and pots were recycled from last year's plants which have finished flowering.

Vegetable Gardens

- Broad beans, lettuce, radicchio, leaf beet, raspberries and strawberries have been planted in the polytunnel and vegetable beds around the school.
- Grandad Jim donated a magnificent Cavolo Nero plant which we look forward to harvesting!
- We have continued to harvest our tomatoes, cucumbers, apples, onions and garlic.
- Thanks to all who took home and enjoyed produce and donated to gardening funds.

School Gardens

- The Picasso and Mary Gardens and beds and planters have been tidied and winter flowering pansies, cyclamen and spring flowering bulbs planted.
- Keep your eyes open for a beautiful display of snowdrops, hyacinth, tulips, daffodils, muscari, iris and winter aconites in early Spring.
- Thank you to Mrs Sandoe and Mrs Milson for the donation of some bulbs.
- A selection of these bulbs will be made available in the Spring Plant Sale.

If you would like to get involved in our gardening projects at school we would love to hear from you. All are welcome, you don't have to be a gardener to join in! A regular commitment is not expected, any time you can spare would be appreciated. Sign up with Mrs Biggs at the Office.

We are hoping to host some Task Days for larger projects in the near future. Watch out for more news in the School Bulletin.

Is it your turn to garden next half term? Remember to bring your wellies!