

The Veg Patch News



Sept 2017

Second Edition

£0.00

Did You Know...

Ken Druse

“When gardeners garden, it is not just plants that grow, but the gardeners themselves”

Truly Grateful

The Veg Patch Reporter

Before going any further we need to say an **enormous** thank you for all your enthusiasm for this school garden project.

In particular to those who have given the **more** than generous donations of funds, supplies or equipment, that have made the garden a reality - *just wonderful!*



A **hearty** thanks also goes to those who have given their time and energy to: run fundraising stalls, build raised beds, move the greenhouse, create archways, shift the pongy muck and wheelbarrow oh *soooooo*very much topsoil, to name but a few of the activities!

Spot the Difference...



A Very Big Welcome

The Veg Patch Reporter

To Mrs Howlett who has joined The Veg Patch Team – *Hurray!*



Glorious Gardening

The Veg Patch Reporter

Sessions have started again!



There's **lots** to sort out after our long break away, but I'm sure we'll get it all done given the children's willingness to get stuck in – *brilliant!*

This term we've changed our 'Wonderful Wednesdays' to 'Thunderous Thursdays'. Sessions are between 13.00 and 15.00hrs with a little extra time tagged on afterwards for that all essential tidying up.

This term we will be sowing some seasonal veg, planning next years planting, and getting a little crafty for the various seasonal festivities.



Marvellous Monitors

The Veg Patch Reporter



So we have a cunning new plan to give the children more time in the garden and a sense of responsibility for it, while also ensuring the Veg Patch stays in 'tip top' condition.

At the beginning of each half term we will be choosing two 'Veg Patch Monitors' from each year group. Each pair of monitors will have their 'own' day of the week when they will spend just five minutes (*although it can be more if poss*) checking the garden with the grown up who brings/collects them at the beginning/end of the day keeping an eye on them. Together these monitors will have a number of easy but essential tasks to perform (a separate info sheet will be given to each Monitor to explain in more detail). With little green fingers crossed, and a drop or two of good will, this will work and The Veg Patch will stay alive for all to enjoy.



Happiness is ...



a sunflower

Help Wanted



Do you have DIY skills and the time to share them? We're looking to create a 'Veg Patch Shelf / honesty box' on the wall by the greenhouse, to sell our garden produce/gifts to a wider audience. If you think this is something you can build *please* make contact...

Watch the Birdie

The Veg Patch Reporter

Our Veg Patch sessions started in January with the 'RSPB Big Bird Watch'



Look at our bird hide (and the bare garden!)

Have you seen the birds enjoying our little pond and fruit (cheeky!). Any idea which ones they are...?

Money Matters

The Veg Patch Reporter



Last year we asked you to buy numerous cups of hot chocolate, Valentine gifts and *ooohh* so many bird feeders. It really was appreciated, **thank you!** This year we're looking to be a wee bit more organised and have developed (*drum roll please*)...

'The Veg Patch Fundraising Plan'

So you know what's happening in advance and can decide which activity you'd like to support (please see attached info sheet)

If gardening isn't your 'thing' but fundraising is, or you can't help during the day, but have a few spare (ha) mins at home in the evening *please* don't hesitate to make contact...

Any Questions

About The Veg Patch please contact:
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The Veg Patch Fundraising Plan

Is divided into three main parts:

1. The Veg Patch Stall

This will continue mostly on a low-key, honesty box basis when there is produce from the garden to sell. Once a term however, we'll aim to hold a stall that's a bit more fun:

❖ **Autumn Term:**

A Christmas Stall

❖ **Spring Term:**

A Fairtrade Fortnight Stall

❖ **Summer Term:**

A Stall at the PTA Summer Fete

2. Community Events

Each term we will also aim to link with one local community event:

❖ **Autumn Term: *The Alton Apple Day: Saturday 14th October 2017***

This year we're planning to set up The Veg Patch Stall and organise 'Nature and Art' Activities. We'll also display an information board about The Veg Patch and have donation buckets available

❖ **Spring Term: *Event to be confirmed following discussions with ACE***

❖ **Summer Term: *The Alton Open Gardens, June 2018 (Date to be confirmed by ACE).***

The Veg Patch will be open to visitors, who will be offered strawberry teas, as well as Nature and Art Sessions. An information board and donations buckets will also be available.

3. 'Behind the Scenes' Fundraising

Through on-line research, email/letter writing, and one on one discussions we're hoping to :

- ❖ Approach local businesses to support The Veg Patch either financially or with equipment and supplies
- ❖ Apply for appropriate grants, and
- ❖ Seek individual donors

Many Hands... *If you'd like to lend a hand at any of these events, and/or are able to write a letter /fill in a grant application etc. we'd be more than pleased to hear from you . See The Veg Patch Newsletter for contact details.*