



Edible sensory garden project

Weald Rise Primary School would like to say a big thank you to Whole Kids Foundation and School Food Matters for the grant they gave us to start developing an edible sensory garden in the Early Years outside area. The on-going garden project managed by the Project Leader Ms Chowdhury and Project Administrator Mrs Adjei has also been used by our partner child minder groups and partner pre-school group that currently access our sensory room. Members from School Council and Parent Volunteers from the ESOL class have also helped to sustain the garden.

We worked with Cath from School Food Matters to plan the garden, and she said: 'It has been a real pleasure to work alongside you, the volunteers and the school council on this project. I hope the garden becomes a place where all your pupils are able to relax, learn and socialise together. Now that the plants are in along the pathways and perimeter I hope you enjoy planting up the raised beds with your rocket garden. I'm sure the pupils will really benefit from growing their own food and enjoy trying new things.'

Quotes from School Council Members

'Gardening is really cool but tiring. It's interesting seeing seeds that I had no clue what they were. We had generous parents who gave up time to assist us with gardening. I've learnt a lot of skills due to this project.' Blake

'I've had an amazing opportunity gardening. I also learnt about different seeds. I even enjoyed getting my hands dirty with mud. I never knew garden was fun. The best thing was learning new things and planting seeds.' Stefania

'We planted plants to benefit the school. Parents helped out a lot. I loved it and had lots of fun.' Oliver

A quote from the Project Administrator

'The evidence of awe and wonder experienced by children, parents and volunteers who had no previous experience in this area is invaluable. Skills have been gained, knowledge and understanding imparted and relationships developed. Fine/ gross motor skills are being cultivated, personal, social & emotional development is taking place and academic skills are improving.' Mrs Adjei

A quote from a Parent Volunteer

It's a delight to be part of this project. The benefits to the children are priceless. As a parent I'm so grateful my children have been given this opportunity. For me this project is a triple blessing. My sons get the opportunity to be involved through school. My daughter is involved because the project was opened up to the local community and her child minder signed up to take part. Then I convinced my work place, a local private pre-school to take part. So for us it's a family affair.' Pauline

A quote from a Child Minder

'We enjoyed our visit to the outside sensory garden, hope what we planted will survive and grow! The children had fun watering the plants we put in and watching the other children digging and planting the seeds. We had a few discussions following our visit, growing food, herbs and the smells that we noticed. Also about healthy eating and what fruit and vegetables we can grow, that plants need water and sunshine to make them grow. We did paintings and made a collage from pictures we cut out. Thank you again for the invitation, we will definitely be coming again. It is a brilliant learning tool for us and thank you for including us.' Sue