

GARDENING CLUB

WILD SCHOOL YARD

WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

Hawkesbury Upton School gardening club started in the autumn term of 2018, after a couple of mums with a keen interest in gardening decided to volunteer to start an after school club. Children are encouraged to learn about the natural world and have fun and it has been very positive.

Sessions are planned to accommodate both the children's interests, the resources we can get our hands on, and of course the weather! We have joined the RHS Campaign for School Gardening but there is much more we could do to enhance the school environment and support learning and wellbeing. We soon realised we needed funding to take it further.



A big thank you to the PTA and the school for helping with the costs of the wheelbarrow planters, which the children designed and are nurturing for entry in the village Horticultural Show. Thank you also to the individuals who have lent or donated items and especially to the children who raised £175 through the selling of apple juice and plants.

The children are really excited that the show committee have included a class for their wheelbarrows and sunflower heads - we look forward to seeing them on display in August! So much has already been achieved and we are putting together some interesting plans for next year.

We hope you will be as excited as we are!





WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO..



- Learning about plant division
- Weeding and watering the school planters
- Forcing hyacinth bulbs
- Christmas decorations from nature

- Printing from nature using petals
- Fun grass seed heads to take home
- Planning and building a bug hotel
- Lunchtime session sowing sunflower seeds with all children at the school



- Sowing different seeds for the wheelbarrows and raised beds
- Wooden spoon plant markers
- Carving harvest lanterns from pumpkins

... IN THE SCHOOLYARD

- Chitting potatoes, planting and caring for them
- Harvesting potatoes
- Funghi growing



- Design and planting wheelbarrows
- Sunflower growing
- Origami seed packets
- Identifying and tasting herbs
- Harvesting and pressing apples
- Learning business skills by selling the apple juice

Gardening club has been an amazing addition to our extra-curricular activities this year. The children have engaged in some high quality activities and have really learnt so much about the whole picture of gardening. This fits in incredibly well with our hands-on approach to learning and with encouraging children to develop important life skills and all of this whilst enjoying what they do. My thanks go to Lisa and Emma who have superb ideas and bundles of enthusiasm - we look forward to another year of their expertise and big plans to continue to develop this important provision.

Mike Riches, Headteacher



Much of the equipment and resources used during the sessions are donated by ourselves, our friends and the wider community. We are so grateful for all the support given but we can only do so much without funding. With the school's blessing, we applied for funding from the National Lottery Community Fund.

We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded a grant of **£4,600** to develop the club under the new name of 'The Wild School yard'. The funds will enable us to buy a greenhouse, a potting shed, tools, gloves, pots, seeds and bulbs, an apple press, a propagator, a supply of compost, materials for new raised beds and more. We hope that this capital grant will enable us to get more children involved at the school.

We are so lucky to have this grant as it will benefit not just the children in the gardening club right now, but the whole school for many years to come.



**Are you having a garden clear out?
Do you have tools, plants, watering cans, trugs, pots, nest boxes etc. that are no longer needed?**



If you can help with equipment, supplies or your time please let the school know

