

The Mount Primary School

GROWING IDEAS



Commitment level:



Equipment List

- Shed
- Trowels & forks
- Spade
- Watering cans
- Wheel barrow
- Compost heap



Project Timeline

2003

Katie's Memorial Garden was created

Since 2003 Ganesh annually leads Year 3 growing programme

Apple Day for Years 3-6
Bird Feeder Workshops

Future

Secret Garden



PROJECTS

Children in Year 3 enjoy a year-long growing project with Ganesh Unlimited, an organisation specialising in environmental and horticultural workshops for schools.

Ganesh leads workshops every 6 weeks, and then hands over to the class and their teacher to look manage the projects. Projects have included:

Two raised beds, growing food that the students might not have previously tried eg growing corn for making popcorn and the garlic for garlic bread.

The Living Willow Project: domes planted by the children will continue to grow and develop.

Apple Day: school's apples are picked, peeled, juiced, dried and iced. Years 4-6 make apple pies and cakes to share with the school.

Harvest Hand-Over: During the Year 4 assembly, new Year 4 students present their Year 3 gardening work, sharing their produce and their experiences before handing over stewardship of the growing project to the new Year 3, who take responsibility for the seeds over the winter.

Hanging Bird Feeders and Mobiles: Ganesh invites some of the most vulnerable parents to learn how to make them. The parents then host workshops for the students, who take their creations home.

Katie's Garden: a memorial to a former pupil, every student contributed to the design of the garden, which features a fountain, herb garden and Christmas tree (decorated each year). Tended by the students, it is a place for quiet reflection.

Four-Way Garden: the Gardening Club's plot, tended once a week after school throughout the year. Members either take the produce home, or share it with classmates.

Rotary Club volunteers help tend the garden created by the autistic students. Some cuttings are planted in pots, so the students can care for them at home.

Mosaic Mural: students' designs of the four seasons were faithfully reproduced and facilitated by mosaic experts.





Commitment & challenges



- Ground clearance undertaken at Parent/Carer Weekend Working Bees (at the outset of major projects)
- Rotary Club volunteers (weekly)
- Gardening Club led by a teacher (weekly throughout the year)
- Caretaker (maintenance as required)
- Year 3 Class 'weeders' (weekly)
- Watering of gardens over the holidays
- School Council, having consulted their peers, make recommendations.

Whatever next?

Magic Garden: to provide shade and mystery in a more enclosed space. To be created near the new Early Learning Centre, it is hoped the Lads-Dads-and-Lasses group will volunteer to do some of the hard labour

Chinese Garden: for board games, to be built by the school's bursar and husband.

National Curriculum



- Wall displays
- EAL vocabulary and key words
- **Literacy:** poetry about the mosaics and Katie's Garden, and diaries about the garden's development
- Science and Numeracy: growing and cooking, experiments and measuring
- Year 3 NC links

Growing ethos

- Stewardship
- Sharing produce
- Cyclical process
- Good organic gardening skills
- Price and health awareness 'brain food'

Funding



- Limited funds from PTA
- Charitable funding letter requests e.g. Save the World, Rotary Club and Archway Trust for Katie's Garden
- Plant donations from local nurseries

What we grow



- Pumpkins
- Leeks
- Corn
- Carrots
- Broccoli
- Courgettes
- Strawberries
- Melons
- Herbs
- Runner Beans
- Garlic



More information

To learn more about Ganesh Unlimited, go to www.creativewillow.com

