

Coombe Hill Junior

GROWING

IDEAS



Commitment level:



Equipment List

- Tools
- Plastic greenhouse
- Water butts
- Composters
- Raised beds



Project Timeline

2007

Allotment was built by an outside contractor

2007

Chessington Garden Centre carrot award

2008

Chessington Garden Centre spuddies award

2009

Won RHS Alan Titchmarsh Award

2010

Produce sale outside Kingston Waitrose



PROJECTS

The Allotment: Every child at Coombe Hill Juniors gets to experience food growing. Gardening Club takes place after school on Tuesdays, and on Wednesday afternoons, Learning Support Assistant, Kay Stanford takes a group of keen gardeners out of class to work with her on the allotment. Kay is never short of helpers, and during break times children will seek her out offering to do a bit of weeding or watering.

The Year 5 Allotment: Outside the Year 5 classrooms are three raised beds – one for each class. Here the year 5s can grow their own potatoes and beans.

The Nature Area: Coombe Hill Juniors is lucky enough to have a separate nature area for pond dipping and science activities. This is a beautiful area buzzing with life with birds, bats and frogs as residents.

Commitment level



Gardening is co-ordinated by Kay Stanford, but the projects were driven by deputy head, Jacqui Stanford. They are extremely well supported by the Head and all are involved, so that the project can be sustained. Some gardening activity will take place every day during term time, with Kay and the school's caretaker helping with watering during the holidays.



Eating & cooking



Lots of eating and tasting in the summer and Year 3s made a vegetable soup from their carrots and potatoes. Teachers use herbs and salad leaves in their lunches and there has been a produce sale outside the school.

Funding



- £70 received from Waitrose Community Matters via School Food Matters
- £500 prize money from RHS Campaign for School Gardening
- Ongoing PTA support for specific equipment

What we grow



- Potatoes
- Carrots
- Parsnips
- Onions
- Garlic
- Strawberries
- Raspberries
- Sweetcorn
- Peas
- Beans
- Herbs
- Pumpkins
- Marrows
- Courgettes
- Radishes
- Lettuces

National curriculum



All classes visit the growing spaces in maths, science, literacy and art.

Disappointments & challenges



Foxes digging up the garden and squirrels eating the daffodil bulbs.

Outcomes & results



Many teachers and parents are now growing veg at home having experienced the joys of growing their own at school. Children have learnt about how food is grown. One child found out that carrots grow under the ground after he panicked and declared "Miss... the carrots are green! Aren't they supposed to be orange?"

Successes

- Halloween lanterns cut out of the school's pumpkins
- Bumper potato crop
- Project work and evidence for RHS prize
- Chessington's heaviest carrot yield



Whatever next?



Kay dreams of a polytunnel to extend the growing season.

Top Tip

Don't forget to chit your potatoes for a bigger yield



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www.schoolfoodmatters.com
www.kingston.gov.uk/growing_ideas

