



A Year in the Life of our Garden Club 2015-16

Our outdoor environment is a very important feature of our school - we have an orchard, a forest school with our forest HQ, a huge field, and our allotment and potting shed. We like to be outside as much as possible, and our teachers are getting very creative in the ways we can use our outdoor environment in maths, English and science, as well as for art and geography.

Our allotment site has had a very busy year, and is now very different to how it was in September! The site is used by classes during the day, but the maintenance and main tasks are carried out by us, the Garden Club team. We meet weekly, rain or shine, on a Tuesday after school, working with three adults: Mrs Cottell, our teacher; Rebecca who is the Secretary of Churchdown Horticultural Society; and Granny Eileen, Ruby's granny. Other family members come along to help us when possible.

Garden Club is very important to us - we know that the teachers in school think we are a quirky bunch because we are all very individual, and all have our favourite things to do on the allotment. Working outside gives us the chance to socialise with new friends from other year groups, and to talk with adults, which some of us find quite difficult in the classroom.

So... here is a quick review of our Garden Club year....



We entered a basket in the school competition at the Malvern Autumn show for the first time, and won

a bronze award. Our basket included apples from our orchard.



Chris Evans came from Dundry Nurseries to show us how to plant potatoes.

Chris helped us to plant our seed potatoes in tyres along the school fence.



Sydney's granddad came into school and used his rotovator to turn over all the soil on our allotment beds. We helped by emptying our compost bins onto the soil.



We had a huge delivery of top soil. It took us ages to move it onto the vegetable beds!

This giant kit is our new poly tunnel. Parents and friends came in to build it for us.





We had lots to put into the ground because we had planted lots of seeds in spring.



I liked making the bug things to hang in trees.

There are lots of jobs to do on a Tuesday afternoon, especially remembering to label the seeds we plant, and putting sticks next to our sunflower seedlings to help them grow tall.

I liked planting with my granny.



Luke worked hard on putting plastic into the hanging baskets ready for planting.





My favourite week is when we made the wigwams.

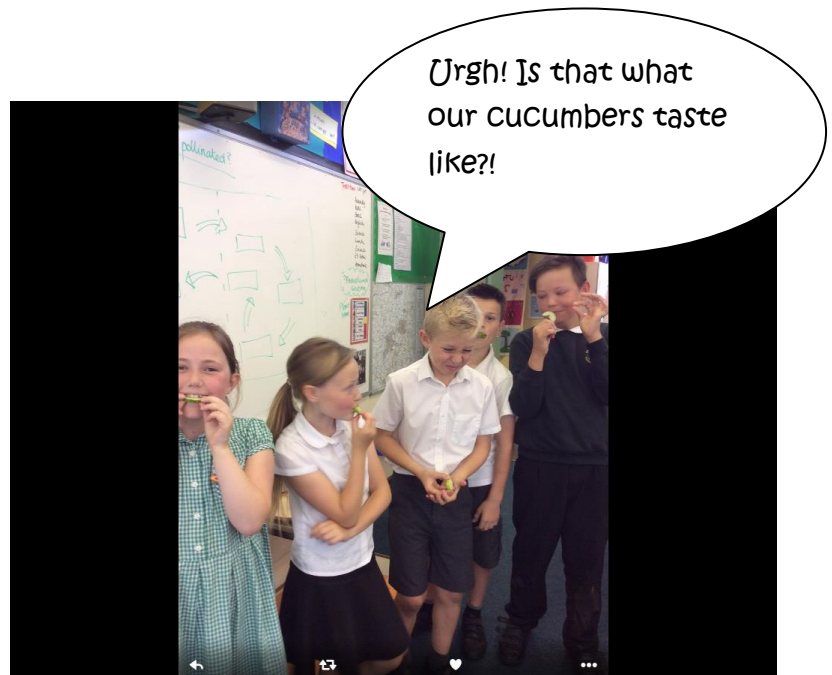


We have a fantastic herb garden!

Weeding is boring!



Our polytunnel is great because we can grow lots of new vegetables such as cucumbers and salad leaves, and they are ready to eat before the end of term.



We had great fun emptying our potato tyres. We took the potatoes straight into the cookery room, and had warm potato salad before the end of *Garden Club*!





We picked spinach and peas from the allotment, cooked them and made vegetable pasties for our Garden Party.

We finished our Garden Club year with a Garden Party to say thank you to all the people who have helped us during the year. The sun shone, we had lots and lots of food, and pea and mint ice-cream made from our own vegetables and herbs!

