

Garden News

As the end of the school year beckons we thought it would be nice to look at some of the things that we enjoyed in our school garden this year.

We were delighted to have the support of our local **TINE** factory in Mogeely to assist in cheering up the school on our return last September. They provided the lovely window boxes that brightened our way into school all through the year. Some machines cleared away a tired area and three sections of the front were prepared and sown with wildflowers. We got great joy out of watching these bare circles gradually come to life in the Spring and wow did they make a splash when they reached their glorious best during the past few weeks. The students were very proud to be looking after our pollinators too. Thanks again to all in TINE for supporting us in this initiative.

As with so many plans, much of our gardening had to be put on hold this year as pods and bubbles could not mix freely as before. Like so many other activities we found different ways to work and just like the plants would - we adapted to a new environment!

Our first job was chitting our potatoes inside for a few weeks. While this was happening, we prepared the beds adding some well-rotted manure and seaweed. There are some pictures of noses being held as we worked!! The potatoes were planted a little later than usual, but they are

doing well. We have early crop for summer harvesting and main crop for Autumn.

In the Springtime our daffodils dazzled us, and we loved spotting the snowdrops, tulips and crocus appear here and there. These early flowers really help the bees after Winter, and we will plant more each year.

Beetroot, peas, and onions soon joined the spuds in the beds nearby. Our fruit trees are all doing well with lots of red currants waiting to ripen over the summer. We also planted some strawberries and new raspberry canes (after realising that the other canes didn't survive the arrival of the new fencing!) Thankfully, our apple trees are all thriving and full of blossom..... we look forward to some baking in September!

Our back garden area was looking sad for much of the year. Our trusty greenhouse had endured one storm too many and was no more. We didn't replace it this year as we have some exciting future plans in mind for a new location. We missed being able to gather and work together to smarten it up. However, there were a band of workers who joined in on several days. We always had continuous offers of help from anyone who saw us..... we cannot wait to welcome you all back too!

And so, it was time to add some flowers to announce the Summer. Boots, baskets, pots, and planters all now host an abundance of colour and cheer.

Well, we certainly had a different year gardening at school. We loved getting outside and having nature inspire us - sometimes passing by on a movement break or perhaps getting stuck in and having dirty hands to prove it! Nature is amazing and no doubt many of you are busy growing at home. We look forward to hearing all about your gardening fun too so be sure to take some pictures.