



GROW TO SCHOOL END OF YEAR ONE GRANT PROGRESS REPORT

Organisation: Grow to School (GtS) CIC

Project title: Schools Growing & Biodiversity Project

Project start date: September 2018

Project end date: July 2019

Outcome indicators:

Total numbers for the first year of the project:

- 940 children, 82 staff & 18 parents have gained horticultural knowledge and skills
- 82 teaching staff have gain knowledge and skills in taking their classes outside for STEM related lessons.
- 3 schools have been left with the Growbag resources to aid food growing into the future
- Children & staff from across the schools have been involved in surveying their school grounds and improved their knowledge of wildlife and habitats
- All 3 schools have been left with simple environmental management plan, comprising ideas for outdoor learning and a habitat map for future use
- 1 school has started a weekly after school garden club with parents and children as a direct result of the project

Project outcomes:

This project supports the aims of the Nineveh Trust by:

- Children will engage with the natural environment and understand where their food comes from
- Teachers will develop the skills, tools and confidence to deliver a food growing curriculum once we have left
- Schools will realise their onsite environmental resource to help facilitate delivery of their science curriculum

Food growing:

Across the schools the project has really engaged the staff and offered a structured project bring the whole school together to grow. The enthusiasm to go beyond growing is great, they have all set up compost bins now and plan to start collecting fruit waste from snacks and use the waste from the garden. One schools is also setting a wormery.

The children are really looking after plants. They have learnt how to weed, and identify common weeds, they have looked at the soil and learnt how to improve it, they have learnt about vegetable families, how to sow seeds, how to plant a plant, learnt about mulching and why we do it, learnt about the correct way to water seeds and plants, also learnt about hero's and villains of the garden. Some have made scarecrows!



Tending the beds



Feedback on Growbag:

The children have really taken on board the responsibility for watering and caring - we often have a small group of children looking at the beds at break time! It's been an extremely positive experience so far, bringing the school community together! (Kirkburton Forst School)

It seems to especially have inspired children who attend the after school gardening club. They are really confidently naming and using the tools safely. They understand the importance of weeding and watering. They are really enjoying caring for plants over time. (Mount Pleasant Primary School)

The audit:

The children and staff have surveyed the grounds to identify habitats, surveying species of trees, plants, animals, birds, invertebrates on land and in the pond and much more. Whilst doing this we have tailored the survey work to link with the curriculum and enthuse staff to take the children outdoors.

The plans include bespoke recommendations and results for the school to use in their curriculum planning and to help them manage their site & its biodiversity.

The audits have really allowed the teachers to see how their grounds can be used for curriculum learning as well as getting the children involved with the survey work.



ID station and quadrat

Feedback on the audit:

We feel that already the project is contributing to our curriculum very well. We do try and ensure breadth and interest across the curriculum and I feel that the project enables us to do this easily. Your expertise has been most welcome and I know that our staff are looking forward to the CPD session to further increase their confidence. (Denby First School)

This has been a wonderful project, with all staff in school commenting and coming to see what is happening, as well as parents - who have commented very favourably. The children are very enthusiastic and they see the grounds and woodland in a different way now. (Kirkburton Forst School)

