



## Outdoor Learning 2020 and Beyond

Outdoor Learning is one of the key priorities in this year's SDP. As you are aware, we have very limited green space on site and we needed to develop this further in order to give our children the best possible education. The health and wellbeing benefits of learning outdoors are well documented and explained in St Matthew's Outdoor Learning policy 2020.

Children will be regularly attending learning off site both at Windsor Gardens and our new allotment with the aim to include weekly or fortnightly sessions where all curriculum areas can be covered, not just science.

### 'Bucket' School

Outdoor learning will be part of our 'Bucket School'. Each child has a bucket, personalised high visibility jacket and backpack with a range of equipment in.



### On Site Development

Large planters, spring bulbs and compost will help create a flower 'Maze' on site. They will be positioned so that children can play amongst them as part of playtime and have the opportunity to observe closely the changes throughout the year. Children will plant and maintain these as part of their learning on site. Additionally, this area will be transformed by a brightly-coloured mural designed by the children (like the one below). This project should make the learning at the gardens and allotment more relevant day to day. We will continue to develop the site using other areas in 2021 and beyond.



Similar layout for planters for children to play amongst



Current area for planned changes



An example of colourful images that children may want to design.

### Windsor Gardens

As you are aware, LCC granted funding to plant a large wildflower meadow which was planted in May 2020. Since then, we have made links with Barry walker from LCC's Parks and Green space, Local Ward Councillor Tim Jeeves, Carl McGlocklin from Liverpool Street Scene, Dominic Knowler from BUGS Bee Conservation, Richard Scott from the National Wildflower Centre and My Clubmoor to create a community project.





**Signage and Information**

The church kindly funded information signage to be installed onsite. LCC have agreed to install these, awaiting confirmation of date. 2 large lecterns, plus 10 small signs- 5 for habitats and 5 for bee types. Information trails for children and the local community to engage with are being created.



1. Key stage 1 friendly information lectern



1. Key stage 2 friendly information lectern

**Habitat 1 Hedges**  
 Description: A long, narrow strip of trees and shrubs.  
 Did you know?: Hedges are a natural barrier that prevent wind from blowing away soil and help to keep the ground warm.  
 Animals: Hedgehogs, rabbits, foxes, and many birds.

**Habitat 2 Trees**  
 Description: Large plants with green leaves and brown trunks.  
 Did you know?: Trees provide a home for many animals and plants. They also produce oxygen for us to breathe.

**Habitat 3 Deadwood**  
 Description: Fallen trees and branches.  
 Did you know?: Deadwood is important for many insects and animals. It provides a home for beetles, moths, and other organisms.

**Habitat 4 Bare Soil**  
 Description: Open ground without plants.  
 Did you know?: Bare soil is important for many insects and animals. It provides a home for beetles, ants, and other organisms.

**Habitat 5 Wildflower Meadow**  
 Description: A field of colorful flowers.  
 Did you know?: Wildflower meadows are important for many insects and animals. They provide a home for bees, butterflies, and other organisms.

**Bee 1 Buff-tailed Bumblebee**  
 Description: A large bee with a yellow and black body.  
 Nesting Behaviour: They nest underground in old rat holes.

**Bee 2 Honey Bee**  
 Description: A smaller bee with a yellow and black body.  
 Nesting Behaviour: They nest in old wooden boxes and other structures.

**Bee 3 Hairy-footed flower bee**  
 Description: A small, fuzzy bee.  
 Nesting Behaviour: They nest in old wooden boxes and other structures.

**Incredible Edibles at Windsor Gardens**

My Clubmoo have kindly funded 2 large planters that will have edible food for the local community to pick throughout the year. The children will be very much part of the planting and maintenance. A QR code on the side will allow people to access healthy recipes using the fruits, vegetables and herbs growing there. They have also agreed to deliver workshops for the children when it is safe to do so. Installation January 2021.





## Planting and Growing

Tim Jeeves has donated £500 as part of the Neighbourhood Mayoral Fund (MNF) to plant 1200 bulbs at the Windsor Garden Site. 8 species were planted, all with different bloom times. The idea is that bloom will start in February and continue throughout the spring and early summer, and then the wildflowers will be in bloom. The idea is that the site will have bloom for most of the year.

We are starting to learn how to grow our own fruit and vegetables as part of our 'Incredible Edibles' scene. Many vegetables were harvested last year and were distributed to local families. As part of our Catholic ethos, we believe that it is important that the children grow produce from seed, help harvest at various points in the year and help distribute to those most in need in the community. This is especially important because of the financial impact that Covid-19 has had on our families in the area.



Harvesting and clearing the weeds ready for composting



Learning how to use gardening equipment safely



How worms help



Mini beast hunt



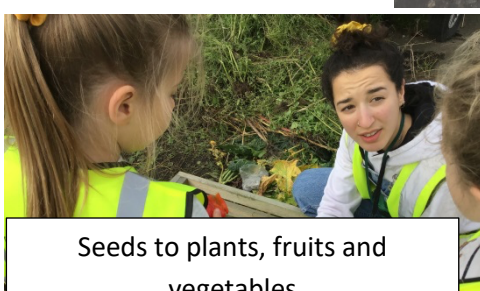
Harvesting swedes



From seed, to plant to produce



Team effort



Seeds to plants, fruits and vegetables



Produce



Food parcels ready for our families in need. Organic and freshly grown produce.



Ready for our local families to enjoy our fresh and organic produce.