



Dorset Gardens Trust Schools



GARDENING WITH CHILDREN AND YOU!

We do hope that you are all well and that life is gradually becoming easier.

Dear Parents,

Let's start with who we are, the Dorset Gardens Trust is a group of garden enthusiasts based in Dorset who care for the gardens and landscapes of Dorset. We are a charitable organisation and raise money to fund restoration projects, record the wonderful historic gardens of Dorset AND we also have a schools committee who are responsible for encouraging children in Infant and Junior schools to garden; and as you will read in this e-newsletter those schools who have been welcoming children back have found that a school garden has been such a bonus in these very strange times. One school described their school garden which we had helped support as 'an inspirational resource'.

We also heard from ALLENBOURN School

'To mark the reopening of the school after school closure the children and staff have planted 14 plants; 7 colours of the rainbow to celebrate our return to school. These plants are June flowering, which should serve as a beautiful reminder to us all each year about the resilience and hope we have demonstrated during this time. All children and staff enjoyed planting these flowers, rain or shine and have enjoyed the first step in our school community coming back together once more.



And at Mudeford Infant School - they have worked on transforming their school pond into a haven for wildlife.



It was marvellous to hear from **All Saints Primary School at Bishops Caundle** who we helped at DGT with a grant:

'Throughout the 'lockdown' staff have taken the opportunity to use our wonderful outdoor areas and get pupils more involved in nature. During this time our staff and pupils have built raised planting beds, planting a variety of vegetables and flowers. In addition, we have prepared and planted a wildflower area and, surrounding these, a number of tyres which have been planted with colourful and aromatic flowers, herbs and shrubs. Furthermore, we have enhanced and rejuvenated our pond area.

Gardening



Pond



More raised beds



Taking advantage of our superb new areas, pupils have also been involved in a number of nature- based projects. These include building a wormery, hatching butterflies, searching for bugs and minibeasts and pond dipping...

From cherry tee...



...to cherry pie



All of our nature based activities are followed up with research and wider curriculum activities such as poetry, writing fact sheets, art, story writing & telling and cookery.

Minibeast hunt



Fruit picking



New wildflower area



Any bugs?



But what, as parents, can you do?

Perhaps you already have an area where your children can garden, but if not there are ways of growing plants indoors for example on window sills and we - the DGT Schools Team- can perhaps inspire you. To start with here are some websites that you might find helpful.

I think your first link should be to head to the RHS Campaign for school gardening - it's BRILLIANT



<https://schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/home>

You can join now as an individual and receive a free welcome pack



There are lots of interesting things you can grow and do RIGHT NOW!

Use an old container and create a Gulliver Garden, add a few pebbles for a rock garden, a glass jar lid makes an excellent 'pond'.

Take some moss, put it in a foil container with a little water and soon you will see seed heads growing and old carrots-just cut off the heads and put in water and soon you have results like this



And what about cress?

as well as making cress heads you can also sprinkle cress seeds on to papier mache and make mini hills and forests for your Gulliver Gardens.

HERE ARE SOME MORE WEB SITES FOR YOU TO TRY:

Garden Organic www.gardenorganic.org.uk/schools

Excellent information about what to grow and how, lots and lots of advice.

Gardening with Children www.gardeningwithchildren.co.uk

Excellent comprehensive website. Kids Zone, Family Zone, School Zone, all good.

Jamie's Kitchen Garden <https://www.foodforlife.org.uk/early-years/early-years-kitchen-garden-project>

Budding gardeners www.buddinggardeners.co.uk

We look forward to supporting your children's schools as soon as we can but if YOU would like any help in the meantime and would like to receive a regular monthly e-newsletter please contact us on this address

schools@dorsetgardenstrust.co.uk

GOOD WISHES FROM THE DGT SCHOOL COMMITTEE