

Bulletin 1 – Academic Year 2018 – 2019

The Edible Garden (EG) team of HOME in Bridport and Transition Town Bridport have much to report since the Summer term 2018 and holiday. I shall do my best to report all of this in the bulletin, as it happened.

New Parents reception

Tia Mary and I ran a stall at the new parents on 24th July. We met many parents who were very interested in what the EG team were doing. Ten people gave us their emails and recently they have received an email giving them an invitation to come and volunteer with us.

Meeting with the new Head

We met Kate Batorska for the first time on the 24th July. It was very exciting to discuss outline plans for the next academic year and we wish her well.

- As a continuous need for funding is always required, Tina and Sarah had drafted an application to Ernes Cook – a charity that gives money to projects in schools involved with outdoor learning and the environment. We finalised plans to put a bid in continuing the work Tia and Claire had done in the Woodland area with year 4. This will connect STEM subjects of the national Curriculum (NC), through design and make of new equipment and space improvement. It will also give wages for the work Tia and Mitch do.
- We discussed having an event in the Autumn to round off the Peas Please project started last academic year.
- We talked about having access to the school's 'pathway' programme so that work done with the EG team on a Wednesday/Thursday can link to real topics connected to the NC.

Produce to the Food Bank

During the summer holidays the EG team watered, cared for and picked produce from the garden (a bumper year of crops) Some tomatoes were frozen for Amanda and Mel. The rest was delivered to Cupboard Love in the church. On one week, Tia tells us, a little girl proudly showed her mum that she had helped grow the food that they were receiving.

Link with the Borough Surveyor

Sarah and Tia met Daryl Chambers on 3rd August to look at the woodland area. He has agreed to help develop the area using his men and machines. A first list included, Daryl to meet the children to discuss the feasibility of this plan, Some levelling of the ground and clearance of small shrubs and lower branches of mature trees to be done, An entrance arch to be provided replacing the old condemned one – possibly made of metal and other materials, A tree house to be provided hanging between the two large trees, A tree seat to be made which surrounds a whole trunk, A 'boat' to be created using cast offs of ropes, net and rocks, including gifts of materials from local builders merchants, A screen to divide the pond area so that woodland and pond flora and fauna are kept separate.

Our new sponsors

Tina got in touch with Richard King, director of Kitson and Trotman and chairman of the Melplash show. She had a 'wonderful' meeting with Richard and they have agreed to give £500 for three years. Congratulations to Tina for achieving this. Richard would like it to be spent on supporting the children in learning to grow, cook and eat food from the school garden. This gives us some financial

security, but further regular funds are really necessary. Amanda recently talked to Tracey Scammell, Partner with Kitson and Trotman. Now to encourage other local businesses to do the same!

Melplash Show

Mitch, Tia and I, as well as pupil reps Frank and Kai, received free tickets to go to the Melplash show on 23rd August to pick up the George Payne cup. Our photo was taken by the official photographer.

Peas Please project

Sarah wrote a case study report of our Peas please events and sent it to the Food Foundation which initiated the campaign. Anne Taylor replied ‘how wonderful to receive this!’. It has been passed on to Sustainable Food Cities and is going to be published on their website, as well as Sustain and Veg Cities.

Gardening Club

18 pupils have signed up for the gardening club every Wednesday 12 – 1pm.

Curriculum Work

The EG team have been in touch with teachers in the school to build real activities into ‘pathway’ topics in Year 2 and year 5. Year two are doing a module called allotments and Beth is in contact with Tia to set up activities in the garden area and the polytunnel. These occur on a Thursday, so the materials must be left for the class. Hopefully we might find a parent volunteer to get involved. Year five are continuing the Woodland project where Tia and Mitch are working with Natasha contributing workshops with the children Wednesday/Thursday.

Funding

Bridport Town Council and the school have given some money towards the EG project which we are very grateful. The Ernest Cook Foundation decide on our application on the 12th December.

Harvest Celebration

Thursday 4th October ‘we are joining up with a whole school activity, providing pumpkin soup and cob baked bread, for everyone, after the church service. This year it is a combined festival with the Autumn show organised by the PTA. The EG team have kindly offered to use the harvest produce from the garden to make soup for everyone to celebrate the Festival so please do come and join in the celebrations!’

Future Plans for the garden

The EG team have been talking about the development of the garden; Many of the plans are going to be done this school year, depending on time and resources. The principles of permaculture are at the heart of all that we do. As Tia says “the main ethics are people care, earth care and fair share”. We have always tried to practise that within the restraints of a school organisation. We hope to have a larger HOME group meeting soon and would welcome any thoughts from the school on what their priorities are for the community, especially the children.

