

## Bulletin 4

The Edible garden team of HOME in Bridport and Transition Town Bridport have had a very busy term with many outreach occasions to the whole school community and Bridport. If you do Facebook you could see what we are about there.

### **Successes in the Peas Please project**

Since gaining an Awards for All grant early this year we have now largely finished the presentation of 'making a pledge for veg' to the children. This has been a national project run by the Food Foundation. During the months of April, May and June the Edible Garden (EG) team has concentrated on promoting vegetables, with enormous support from Claire Legg and Kendell Stuart Smith, for which we are most grateful.

Here is a summary of the main things achieved:

- Mary Buesnel, nutritionist, has joined Tia Perrella in giving a series of workshops to year 3,4 and 5. It has created an awareness of what you eat and how to distinguish all the nutritional, as well as senses, that are involved in choosing food for health and pleasure. Food Poverty (according to a report from Brighton and Hove) found increased take up of free school meals and healthy breakfasts very important.
- Sarah, Tia and Mary gave a whole school assembly launching the project including the pledge tree for veg.
- Eight Year 2 parents participated in a five-week course of cookery after school. Amanda Downes, the Head Cook, assisted by Mary Buesnel and Bob Middleton (children's centre) had highly successful sessions – parent and child - using fresh vegetarian ingredients culminating in a cookery book of recipes and baked snacks given to families at the Edible garden event in June.
- Robert Golden attended several of these events and provided beautiful photographs, which, after vetting, have been used for publicity. If the school would like specific photos Sarah can pass them on – please give a credit to Robert.
- Greater publicity of the EG has been achieved through items in the school's newsletter and twitter blog, which we are grateful for.
- Through using Bob Middleton, we have gained contact with the Children's centre next door.
- The 'Taste the Garden' open afternoon, as part of the food festival, offered more and more new stalls with really good attendance this year. The mayor, several governors and teachers came. There was a tasting stall, stir fry stall, and especially welcome a PTA game called Pea Ping Pong; as well as a record number of pizzas cooked by Tia on the cob oven. Martin Maudsley was employed to give wonderful stories and music around the theme.
- A legume castle was built by Mitch with children's flags adorning the poles. It would be good to have a celebration of this produce next term if that is possible?
- Finally, the Bridport Food Festival, where Mary ran a tasting/smelling food game stall. Also, both Mary and Tia provided live workshops in the children's marque.
- Thanks to Claire Legg, we have some feedback questionnaires which can be turned into data analysing the success of the project and also a list of pledges given by the children. These all help in future funding applications. Funds are needed fairly soon.

### **The school holidays**

July and August are the most productive time of the year. Much of the food needs harvesting. We will be producing chutney and freeze passata for the school. However, from the 25<sup>th</sup> July the picking will happen early on Wednesdays so that it can be delivered to **Cupboard Love** by 10,45. Caroline Gamble said it would be brilliant; last year there was a week when we delivered 29 cucumbers! If you are free come along and help pick.

### **The Gardening Club**

The gardening club has been highly successful since it moved to lunchtime, although the time the pupils have gets less and less each week. We have up to 18 kids come and we have noticed that there is a real core of keen ones who are gaining many skills.

Mitch has made some biochar with the remnants of a bonfire, in the half-term. It has been added to plants in the tunnel. Biochar is most commonly used as a soil amendment incorporated into garden soil or potting compost. It will endure in the soil for thousands of years.

### **Melplash Show success**

Tia had entered EG for the Melplash Show gardens competition and has won the George Payne cup for an outstanding allotment. WE are very proud of this achievement and show's recognition of it's role after five years in the development. Tia, Mitch and I have had our photo taken and are going to pick up the cup on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August. It would be lovely if one or two of the gardening club could come to.

### **Next Academic Year**

We would like to be involved with some more detailed planning of the start of September, and also a more long term discussion and plan for the whole of next year. We feel that when the activity fits in with National Curriculum it benefits most.

We are very aware of how hard all of you in the school work and hope the holidays will give you time for rest and reflection. We will be there in the garden – sometimes every two days to water – throughout the Summe.