



Growing with Schools

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Thank You

Our second **Celebration Day** was another gloriously sunny one. We had workshops run by the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens, Severn Trent



Sherbourne Fields Winning Mini Garden

Water, The Living Environment Trust, Cheylesmore Partnership Centre, Garden Organic and Warriner School Farm. The author of children's book 'The Great Greedy Gogmagog', Ann Loscombe, gave out books and pressed apples for juice tasting and Robbie Etherington from Healthy Schools ran a 'Guess the Veg'

competition (I didn't know bread fruit were so big!).

Christ the King Junior School were super hosts and a special mention has to be given to their guides, who were so organised and happy to help for the whole day.

Congratulations to all our winners and thank you to every school that took part.

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Date for your Diary: Celebration Day 2011

June 30th

Well Done Everyone!

What a slow start to the growing season we had. Despite that, we've seen many innovative, productive and beautiful gardens this

year, from African Bag Gardens at Aldermoor Farm, a poly tunnel bursting with veg at Christ the King Juniors to happy hens at Sherbourne Fields.



- Poultry Training Special Offer: half price places for Coventry teaching staff! Page 2

www.farmgarden.org.uk

**Facebook group:
Growing with Schools**

Education through Cultivation

More schools want to link their gardening to the **curriculum** and we've been on hand at staff meetings to help with this.

Ideas have been flowing: pumpkin lanterns to illustrate light and dark, growing coffee plants when studying global agriculture, food mile studies, weighing, measuring and comparing different conditions, etc.

The school garden is a wonderful learning resource!



Interactive Calendars

Each month gives suggested activities and observations to inspire pupils and teachers alike.

Sturdy, glossy, reusable posters available in most sizes.

For use in the classroom or main school display.

Large, colourful labels with Velcro backing to record gardening activities in a simple, visual way.

Space for photos or pictures of your garden.

Accessible to all ages and abilities.

Personalised with your school

The Gardener's Apprentice

Sacred Heart and St Patricks Gardening Clubs are helping us develop a **Gardening Apprenticeship**, aimed at Key Stages One and Two. It's a way of structuring growing activities, measuring achievement and developing skills. Each pupil works towards their diploma by performing the usual, vital gardening

tasks and filling in a workbook. It's simple to do, takes up no extra time and provides a journal of their time in the garden. If you would like to help us continue its development, let us know.



Poultry In Schools



Keeping chickens in school is often the next step after setting up a veg garden. We run training on

keeping poultry in a school environment and can offer advice on welfare, buying stock and breaking even!

We also have holiday boarding coops available at Cardinal Wiseman. We now have an **incubator** available to schools on loan. We can provide the eggs, too and take the chicks back to the farm if you need us to.

Special offer to Coventry schools:

A day's poultry training at the Warriner Farm, Banbury, on all aspects of keeping birds in school: **HALF PRICE** at £50.00 pp.

Date: October 14th

Staff Training

We continue to offer training sessions to Coventry teaching staff covering various aspects of gardening.

Each session is held in a different school garden (a chance to see what others are doing and pinch some ideas!) and is held for an hour after school.

We cover topics such as crop rotation, wildlife gardening, fruit tree care, composting,

seed sowing, taking cuttings and weeding and are happy to run a session on an area you have suggested.

An added value is talking to like-minded people who face the same challenges as you and working out solutions together (as well as picking our brains).



A set of six sessions are planned for the spring: dates

Winter Crops

Onions, garlic and 'Aqua Dulce' broad beans can go in the ground between now and November, for earlier crops next year.

Spring bulbs need to be planted too (try grating some soap over the ground afterwards to deter squirrels).

Some salad leaves are quite hardy, too: try mizuna, mustards and lamb's lettuce.

Piles of branches, twigs and leaves make great hibernating hotels for wildlife.



Growing with Schools helped establish a prayer garden at Corpus Christi to celebrate their 50th anniversary .

The garden includes a 'Mount of Olives (complete with olive tree), a water feature and an arbour built by a parent.

Children will add 'prayer stones': painted pebbles.

A fig tree and grape vines make this an edible garden, too.

Morrison's 'Let's Grow'

Don't forget to collect your Let's Grow vouchers between now and November, to redeem against seeds, tools, planters and even

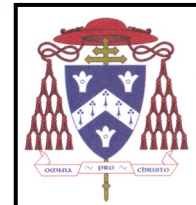
Lutley Primary School, Dudley, provided inspiration when they hosted our poultry cpd for neighbouring schools. Their cob houses, with living roofs, were built by parents and students and are used as outdoor classrooms.



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Waste not...

Quite often the school schedule gets the better of the growing one and things that have been left unharvested have grown unrecognizable over the summer holidays!

Don't write them off, though!

Pretend it was deliberate and use bolted radish pods in curries, salads and stir fries.

Leave seeds to dry on the plant and harvest for planting next spring (beans and peas are the best for this).

A courgette or two always

grow into marrows if left unattended.

Green tomatoes can be pickled, made into chutney or are delicious fried (somebody should name a film after them).

Parsnips should be left until after the first frost.

Brussels Sprouts are slow growers. Don't worry if yours don't

seem to be doing much yet.

As you clear summer's leftovers, try not to leave beds empty. It's better to cover them with a mulch or sow a green manure crop.

