

GARDENING CLUB LINKS TO THE COMMUNITY

So many visitors to our school comment on the stunning building and the beautiful setting and, being here all the time, perhaps the school community sometimes forget just how blessed we are.

The school is set in amazing grounds where the children have an adventurous and exciting back playground and space to play ball sports around the front. In the summer term of 2018, the school won a silver award for the Peace Garden, which is at the front of the school, after entering the 'Diocese of Chichester Spiritual and Quiet Space competition'. Early Years have their own self-contained outside area and the school has use of the cricket field for PE and playtimes in the summer. Each term, one class has the opportunity to experience Forest School on the school site and the team from Two Muddy Boots also run an after school club once a week too. We are very lucky!



What may not be generally known is that the school runs a gardening club, led by volunteers, Mrs Glew and Mrs Bridger, which meets each week from March until October and that each year the Bolney Horticultural Society generously donates to the gardening club.

Recently within a thank you email to the Horticultural Society, Mrs Glew explained more about the club's work:

"We have 3 large raised beds at the back, where we grow fruit and veg and a number of pots and planters around the school that we generally plant up seasonally. There is a small garden at the front of the school designed more for reflective quiet play, which also has a couple of beds that are an ongoing project. It is a lot to maintain on our own during the hour a week that we have.

Our last club day this year saw us making a soup to share with the whole school, using our homegrown produce. We then planted up what we call lasagne pots, where we layer daffodils, tulip and crocus and top plant with winter bedding. We save and take cuttings from our summer geraniums and then harvest the last of the vegetables and save the seeds. We also cover the veg beds with mulch and black weed prevention fleece to be ready for next spring. We are pretty well equipped with lots of spades, forks, trowels etc and the wonderful potting shed you helped fund."



Our school eco council last year sourced hedging for the bottom of the back playground and this year have made plans to add wild flowers to the Peace Garden to encourage bees to visit. We have a young mushroom expert amongst our pupils too and we want to help educate others on how to preserve rare species that have been found in the village.

Watch this space for news on a 'Tidy Up Day' in the Spring at Bolney CEP School and if you would like to be involved with gardening club or to help out at Forest School on a Friday afternoon, do get in touch: office@bolneyprimary.school or phone 01444881352.

