

Parkgate Primary School.....

School – Allotment – Garden

Autumn 2019.....



Autumn – Winter Plans.....

With the very wet autumn that we are experiencing, it has made any outdoor planting and preparation work very difficult because everything turns very quickly into a muddy mess, but, having said this, we have still managed to get plenty of spring bulb planting work done which come the spring will hopefully provide us with plenty of colour..... Follow some more of our gardening work below.....

Staffroom area being planted.....

The area around the school staffroom has had a bit of attention given to it in recent weeks with plenty of weeding done followed by some autumn planting work.....



Now for some planting work

Autumn colour.....

The area outside the staffroom is now being planted up with some autumn – winter colour with cyclamens, hellebores and wallflowers all being planted in this area.....
Also, we have planted some primroses which will also add some extra colour.....



These cyclamens will hopefully establish and naturalise in this area.....



Here you can see that we have planted lots of primroses in the area outside the school staffroom.

Primroses

Wallflowers planted up too.....

The wallflowers that we have planted will grow through the winter into the spring when they will flower which will provide much needed food for the pollinators.....



Skimmia's and Hellebores.....

Also, we have planted some skimmia's and hellebores at the edge of the playground.....



Lots of spring flower bulb planting taking place.....

We have planted over 1,000 spring flowering bulbs in and around the school garden area and outside the school staffroom which will hopefully create some stunning areas of colour in the spring – it will hopefully be a real splash of colour.....



Spring flowering bulbs.....

We have planted lots of spring flowering bulbs in the grass, these bulbs will hopefully naturalise in the grass and spread naturally year after year.....

Allotment area is developing.....

The school allotment area is developing as we start planting up crops that will grow, although slowly through the winter months – so far we have planted winter onions, garlic and we have sown broad beans. All three of these crops have made some strong growth already so they are established ready to withstand any really cold weather that comes in the winter months.....

Below you can see the crop of broad beans that have made some strong growth.....



Winter Onions.....

Below you can see the winter onions that the children have planted, they are making some really strong growth – also we have planted lots of onion sets, both red onions and golden onions in pots inside the poly tunnel which we will plant out as soon as they have grown provided the weather allows us to plant them out.....



Onions growing in pots inside the poly tunnel.....

Here you can see that the onions are starting to grow.....



Onion Sets.....



Spinach seeds have started to germinate

Garlic growing in pots



Paper pots – yes, paper!! pots.....



Monkey puzzle tree.....



Here you can see a new tree that we have planted in the garden area.....

Rosemary cuttings – plant propagation.....

Here you can see a tray of rosemary cuttings that we are going to use to propagate some new plants.....



Hellebores and a Hebe—Sweet Dreams



New growing boxes set up.....

We have added some more growing boxes to our allotment space – these growing boxes will be filled with compost ready for planting or seed sowing.....



Hazel trees have been planted.....



We have started to plant some of the 420 free tree saplings that we have received from the Woodland Trust.....

The photograph shows a tightly planted row of hazel trees that we are going to train into a small hedge..

Hazel trees.....

Daffodil pots are looking good.....

We have 100 pots of daffodils all planted up which are starting to show plenty of growth – these pots have been kept inside the poly tunnel to stop the squirrels from scratching them out.....



Hedgehog house built.....

We have built a hedgehog house which we are going to set up in our garden area.....
Hedgehogs are unfortunately an endangered species which is sad because they are such adorable creatures who are always welcome in a garden space because of the bugs that they will eat – they need to be protected!!



Spring flowering bulbs are making great progress.....



Here you can see that the spring flowering bulbs that were planted by the Year 2 children are making lots of strong growth with the bulbs pushing up through the ground.....

Year 2 bulb planting.....

Wormery is all up and running.....

The school garden wormery is all set up now, fully stocked with composting worms..... As part of the outdoor learning work that the Year 3 and Year 4 children have been doing, this has included some work on composting and also how important the worms are to gardeners and growers – they are crucial to the success of growing and the structure and the quality of the soil.....



Very expensive spice is being grown.....

In the school poly tunnel we have a big pot of very special crocuses growing.....

These are saffron crocuses which produce the spice called saffron. Now, saffron is recognised around the world as being the most expensive spice that you can buy.....

Saffron which is used as a food agent or colouring is the most expensive spice because of the small yield from each plant and the fact that the saffron needs to be harvested all by hand – the orange filaments in the flower produce the spice.....

Below you can see the saffron crocuses that are growing inside the poly tunnel.....



Saffron Crocus.....

Below you can see a close up of the saffron crocus flower with the orange filaments that carry the saffron spice.....



More planting work.....

We have continued our planting work in and around the garden – allotment area with a holly tree planted complete with plenty of red berries.....



Here you can see the holly tree with its red berries – perfect winter food for the birds.....



Sarcococca – this plant has a delightful flower.....

Rosemary and Thyme planted



Fresh herbs.....

Garlic is growing well.....



Blackcurrant bushes have been planted.....

We have recently taken delivery of ten blackcurrant bushes which we have planted up in the allotment growing area – these bushes will root over the next few weeks ready to make some new growth come the spring, growth which will hopefully produce our first crop of juicy blackcurrants. Below you can see the newly planted bushes.....

