

Parkgate Primary School.....

School – Allotment – Garden



Growing project development continuing.....

Work is continuing on the set up and the development of the new school – allotment – garden area with water butts installed on the poly tunnel to capture rainwater, plus work has been carried out to lay a wood chip pathway around all of the raised growing beds, not only a “dry” working surface but also a safe surface in all weathers. Planting work has started along the garden area adjacent to the playground, this planting has created a definitive line between the growing area and the playground plus the planting has a sensory nature to it with perennial grasses all planted up..... A designated herb garden area has been dug over and prepared ready for planting..... Compost bays, pot and container storage bays and a bay for leaves have also been created using wooden pallets. The actual growing beds are under preparation now using plenty of re-cycled cardboard which is acting as a barrier to stop the grass from growing, then on top of this cardboard we are going to add a layer of organic matter which will then be topped off with growing compost.....



Wood chip being laid.....

Creating a safe “dry” working space is so important to the success of any growing space – knowing that you are not going to be wading around in mud plus you end up creating a very slippery and muddy working area especially if you are using tools and wheelbarrows that will be difficult to move in mud.....

Water butts set up.....



Poly tunnel pathway.....



Poly tunnel pathway under construction.....

Garden re-cycling.....



In the garden area we are trying to re-cycle as much as possible so here you can see a pile of wooden pallets that we are going to make compost bays, pot storage bays and also we will build some bug hotels to create a safe haven for any pollinators that are attracted to our garden space.....

Wooden pallets.....

Raised bed set up continuing.....

A weed suppressant membrane has been laid all around the raised bed growing areas which is all in readiness to cover this membrane with wood chip to create our safe working space.....



Development continuing

Poly tunnel raised beds being built.....



Poly tunnel raised beds
all set up.....



Extra raised beds built.....



More development

Poly tunnel pathways being prepared.....



Wood chip delivery.....



Wheelbarrow, shovel.....

All set for action!!



Loads of wood chip.....

Wood chip being laid plus cardboard being applied to cover the grass in the raised beds.....



Carboard is being laid on top of the grass to effectively block out the light so that the grass stops growing, then a layer of organic matter will be applied topped off with some growing compost.....

More pathways completed.....



Growing area
pathways taking
shape!!

Herb garden space being prepared.....



At the front of the poly tunnel adjacent to the pathways we are setting up a herb garden. The grass is being removed from the area before we can begin digging this area ready to plant up.....

Grass being re-cycled too.

Grass being utilised.....

The grass that we have removed from some of the growing areas is being used to build a composting area plus some of the grass is being used to make compost.....

One noticeable feature of the grass that we have been removing is that it is teeming with worms – a sure sign that the soil is healthy and rich – great for growing.....

Below you can see this composting area that we have set up.....



Above you can see the compost bay that we have built from the grass that has been removed. No wastage!!

Wooden Pallet Compost Bay.....



In this bay we can compost all of our veggie peelings and fruit peelings too. Basically, all matter provided it is not cooked food.

Also, all of the fruit peelings from the children in KS1 can be composted in this bay.....

Garden development is taking shape.....

Raised beds built..... Wood chip applied to pathways.....

Poly tunnel raised beds built.....Composting areas set up.....

Planting work to commence soon.....

Ornamental Grasses have been planted.....

Below you can see the start of our planting work with a line of ornamental grasses all planted up adjacent to the edge of the playground area. These grasses will not only create a natural boundary between the garden and the playground but they will also provide a sensory nature to the planting work....



Grasses are stunning.....



Verbena Bonariensis.....



Above you can see some more grasses have been planted along with some verbena bonariensis which are really tall elegant plants that produce masses of tiny purple flowers that the pollinators really enjoy.....
They also self-seed readily too.....

Cardboard from the school bagels being put to use.....



On the left you can see the cardboard from the school bagels is being put to good use as it is blocking the light which is stopping the grass growing in our growing beds.....

School gardening club are busy.....



Here you can see a big growing bed full of haloon – this is a spicy type of cress that the school gardening club children have sown.....

Also, the gardening club children have sown pea shoots which they have taken home.....

Haloon

[Spicy cress]

School curriculum outdoor learning.....

Now that the autumn term is up and running, the children in Year 3 and Year 4 have been busy working in the garden space learning about all of the different tools and how to use these tools safely, they have sown seeds learning about seed germination, plus they have also been learning about what plants need to grow.....

Year 3 have also spent some time outdoors looking at seed dispersal – the grounds at Parkgate Primary School really lend themselves to provide a great outdoor learning experience. Seed dispersal was taught standing under one of the huge oak trees.....

Also, Year 2 are learning and working outdoors by planting spring flowering bulbs which is not only a super learning experience but will also enhance the playground area and the new garden space come the spring.....

Parkgate learning outdoors.....

Year 3 and 4 growing Pea Shoots..... After One Week.....



Week 2 – lots of growth.....



After week two, the pea shoots have made some significant growth, with the warmth and protection of the poly tunnel plus plenty of water [rainwater] from our water butts the plants are growing very quickly – almost ready to be harvested and eaten.....

Pea shoots.....

Spring flowering bulb planting area prepared.....

Below you can see the spring flowering bulbs planting area that has been prepared ready for planting with the Y2 children – learning outdoors.....



Gardening Club growing.....

Below you can see one of the pumpkin plants that the gardening club children from the last academic year planted – this has grown through the summer months into the autumn to produce the pumpkin that you can see below.....

Next year we will grow some big pumpkins.....



Herb garden preparation and planting underway.....

Along with all of the grasses and perennial plants that we have planted so far, we have also spent some time preparing a herb growing area – we have now started to plant this area up with thyme and sage plants. Both of these herbs are usually hardy and able to stand cold winter months but lots of other much less hardy herb plants will be planted in the spring.....

