

# **Cheapside C. of E. Primary School**

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Headteacher  
Mrs Kate Searle

23 May 2018

Dear Parents

## **Allotment Update**

This term, classes have been really busy getting our allotment up and running. As part of our outdoor learning programme we have begun to involve the children in the planting and maintenance of vegetables that we hope to use in our kitchens.

Every year group has been involved and I am delighted with the enthusiastic responses from the children and their willingness to get stuck in.

Work begun in the lower years with Robins Class preparing all the planters by filling them up with a mixture of compost and topsoil. This was probably the most physically demanding task and the children all worked in teams and challenged each other to see which team could fill up the planter first!! They have also planted out some peas and potatoes that they grew from seed. A big thankyou to Mrs Spong who is doing most of the maintenance and watering at the moment.

Next came the Wrens and Doves, who thanks to the generosity of Mrs Rahme, had plenty of young plants to plant in the planters. They have planted sprouts, strawberries, beans and some garden herbs.

Nightingales and Kingfishers are the research classes who are going on a visit to The Thatched Tavern to find out more about their edible garden. They will be sampling some of the herbs and salads and enjoying a delicious lunch! They will also have a herb lecture from John Cross, a local landscape gardener who will be helping this group plant and grow similar things in the allotment.

Kingfishers have also been in charge of the budget. They did a fantastic job growing a variety of plants and then having a plant sale to raise money for the allotment costs. A big thankyou to Mr Streater for organising this and for building the brilliant planters!

Kestrels and Owls will be in charge of ongoing maintenance and a working party has been established for watering, weeding and hopefully harvesting! The current Kestrel class will also be learning more about produce that can be organically grown, and learning more about field to fork relationships on their residential trip to Mill-on-the Brue in September.

We look forward to the children using their knowledge to help us plan for the planting next season.

As I am sure you can imagine, this has taken some organising and preparation and moving forward we would be delighted to welcome any parent help or support. In particular, we need the following help:

- Could you spare 15 minutes prior to the end of the school day to take some Year 5/6 children into the allotment to water the plants? We would need you from 3:00-3:15pm to supervise children watering! If you can only manage 1 day a week it would really help, if we had 5 volunteers then the week is sorted! **(Please ensure you have an up-to-date Cheapside School DBS).**
- Do you have access to the Cheapside allotment? During school holidays we would really appreciate any local families offering to water the allotment. Maybe you know someone who could help?
- Would you be interested in helping out on the allotment and/or helping in Forest School?

If you think you can help or support in any way, please come and see me. I am in school on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and will look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

**Mrs Summers  
Class Teacher**

