

BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER PRIMARY ACADEMY **GARDENING CLUB VIRTUAL GARDENING COMPETITION 2017**



Gardening Club began on 23rd March when 15 children, together with the adults who help, worked hard to prepare the raised beds. The following week they were allocated their metre allotment and planted a potato, onion sets, shallots and garlic before breaking up for Easter.



The children's metre plots are divided by string into a grid of 15. This enables them to grow a variety of crops in a more organised way. Over the following weeks they planted and sowed lettuce, spring onions, radish, sweetcorn, tomato, sweet pepper, dwarf beans, peas, Swiss chard, beetroot and carrots. They also grew a variety of plants from seed for their plots, to take home and for sale. The children water and weed their plots at morning break.



The discovery of an ants' nest was very exciting and our first harvest of radish!



The raised beds, constructed in 2006, had deteriorated and we were very grateful for a grant from Bourton Horticultural Society to replace the wood. The work was carried out by The Bourton Men in Sheds and the beds were reorganised into a better arrangement of the space. Some of the money from our plant sales was used to put bark around them.

In July the allotments were judged by members of the Horticultural Society and the winner will be awarded the Ray Fardon Cup at the Village Show in August, this year four children are entering their vegetables in the show.



HARVEST TIME!



Comments from this year's gardeners.....

- It's fun!
- It makes us keen gardeners.
- We experience growing things including learning techniques.
- Trying different foods like radish.
- Seeing all the creatures that live in the soil - some helpful like worms and others unhelpful like slugs and snails.
- We talk while we are gardening, learn to use the tools properly and share them.