



Developing a Five Star Gardening School 2016-17



We have had a very exciting year outdoors at CVJS! Our garden site has been transformed, we have filled our poly tunnel with fantastic produce, and we have involved the whole school in planting and growing.

Thanks to a wonderful Tesco 'Bags of Help' grant, our garden site has had a super makeover. We can go straight onto the allotment from the playground and our pathways are now fully accessible. This means that we can work on the beds at break and lunchtimes because we can be supervised from the playground...but only if we are wearing our bright yellow waistcoats! We particularly love watering, and this is a great way of introducing new members to the garden team. We have also had a tree taken down so that we now have sunshine and rain on all our vegetable beds.

We have used our poly tunnel to bring on seeds early so that we get to enjoy our produce before the end of term, and we have filled the space with tomato plants, melons, cucumbers, peppers, and two brand new plants - cucamelons and lemon cucumbers. Our vine has grown this year, and has small bunches of grapes hanging from it. Our poly tunnel is also home to our smallest vegetable garden, created and tended by Sophie and Molly. This 1m square bed, made from a wooden pallet, is home to tomato plants, broad beans, radishes and lettuce.

Classes come out to do planting during the school day but the maintenance and main tasks are carried out by us, the Garden Club team. We meet weekly, rain or shine, on a Tuesday after school working with Mrs Cottell, our teacher, and Rebecca Henwood who is the Secretary of Churchdown Horticultural Society.

So... this is just a snapshot of what we have been up to this year.....



Transforming our new entrance to the allotment and poly tunnel, straight from the playground.



Creating- a very proud Sophie with her first produce from the vegetable bed she built in the poly tunnel.



Year 3 *planting* flower seedlings ready to encourage butterflies into the garden.

PS: the butterflies were also 'home grown' from caterpillar eggs!



Communicating- using Twitter to spread the word about great work outdoors! @CVJSchool



Digging up and potting mint roots into pots, ready to bring on in the poly tunnel and sell at our first Farmers Market (We sold all of them!)



CVJS @CVJSchool 28/03/2017
Potatoes and herbs all planted in the allotment. Well done GC.



Weighing freshly dug potatoes ready for sale.



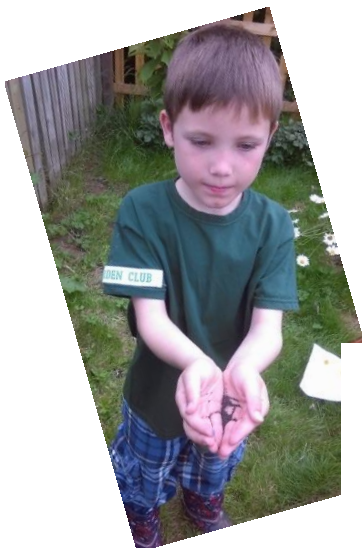
Weeding the troughs, ready for new herbs and salad.



Transplanting lettuce, grown in guttering in the poly tunnel, into our big herb and vegetable troughs next to the Cookery Room.



Investigating the wonderful insects found outside.



Collecting wild flower seeds, ready to spread in forest school. We cut the heads from some flowers in our wildflower garden and pressed them to decorate bookmarks.



Designing our own markers for the vegetable beds, using wooden spoons. We made extras to go on our craft stall.



Harvesting carrots - straight into the Cookery Room to be made into carrot cakes by Year 4.



Decorating cakes with a garden theme, ready to sell at our Farmers Market - super work Year 3!



Creating - cucumbers from the poly tunnel, ready to be made into cucumber, mint and elderflower ice pops - a best seller at the Farmers Market!



Celebrating at our first Farmers Market - we need to make more fruity ice pops, bug hotels and bird boxes for next year!

Outdoor Learning @CVJS Year 3



This year, we are planting **flowers to attract butterflies**: sweet peas, dahlias and cornflowers.

To plant seeds:

- Compost can be found by the potting shed.
- Please make 2 or 3 drainage holes in the bottom of each cup.
- Label your cup, either by writing on the side, or by writing on a lolly stick - the name of the plant and your class will be fine.
- Fill the cup $\frac{2}{3}$ with compost and then put the seed in. Add more compost to cover the seed. Put the cup on a black tray in the polytunnel.
- When all your cups are done, pour water into the base of the tray. Keep an eye on this in the next couple of weeks to ensure the compost does not dry out.
- NOTE: You can plant more than one seed in each pot.



When your sweet peas are tall enough to plant out, and when we are sure there will be no more frosty mornings, you can plant them here:



We will need to make wigwams to hold them up.



The dahlias and cornflowers can go at the bottom of the wigwams.

Once all the plants are in the ground, keep watering them gently at the base of each plant. You will need to help the sweet peas climb the wigwam by twisting the stems gently around the sticks.

Outdoor Learning @CVJS Year 4

This year, we would like Y4 to grow vegetables to use in our cooking activities: carrots, runner beans, cress, and peppers.



To plant seeds:

- Compost can be found by the potting shed.
- Please make 2 or 3 drainage holes in the bottom of each cup.
- Label your cup, either by writing on the side, or by writing on a lolly stick - the name of the plant and your class will be fine.
- Fill the cup $\frac{2}{3}$ with compost and then put the seed in. Add more compost to cover the seed. Put the cup on a black tray in the polytunnel.
- When all your cups are done, pour water into the base of the tray. Keep an eye on this in the next couple of weeks to ensure the compost does not dry out.



When your vegetable plants are strong enough to plant out, and when we are sure there will be no more frosty mornings, you can plant them here:



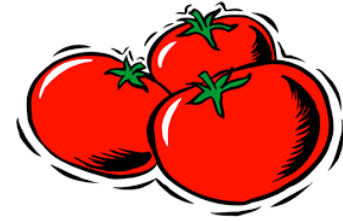
You might like to try planting out some peppers in the allotment bed and putting some into big pots in the polytunnel.

Once all the plants are in the ground, or in the warmth of the polytunnel, keep watering them gently at the base of each plant.

As you runner beans grow, they will need a wigwam or two - you will need to make one like this:



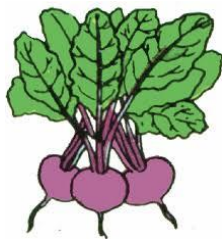
Outdoor Learning @CVJS Year 5



This year, we would like Y5 to grow vegetables for salads: tomatoes, cucumber, lettuce, beetroot and peas.

To plant seeds:

- Compost can be found by the potting shed.
- Please make 2 or 3 drainage holes in the bottom of each cup.
- Label your cup, either by writing on the side, or by writing on a lolly stick - the name of the plant and your class will be fine.
- Fill the cup $\frac{2}{3}$ with compost and then put the seed in. Add more compost to cover the seed. Put the cup on a black tray in the polytunnel.
- When all your cups are done, pour water into the base of the tray. Keep an eye on this in the next couple of weeks to ensure the compost does not dry out.
- NOTE: You can plant more than one seed in each pot.



- NOTE: The **LETTUCE AND BEETROOT** can go straight into the troughs by the cookery room. Make sure you label each end of the line of seeds so that it is clear where you have planted them!



When they get too big for the small pots, you will need to replot your **CUCUMBERS AND TOMATOES** into big pots. These can stay in the warmth of the polytunnel, but you need to water them regularly.

PEAS: You can try growing these two ways:

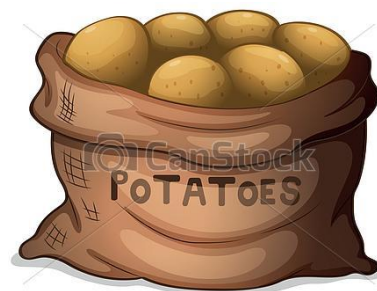
In pots in the polytunnel and then planting out, OR straight into the ground.

Please plant them here. Make a line of string to show where you have planted them.



Outdoor Learning @CVJS Year 6

This year, we are planting **potatoes and strawberries**. You will be using your potatoes in your salmon fishcakes.



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Please put the seed potatoes in a tray somewhere in the classroom so that they start to sprout.

To plant potatoes:

Choose 2 tyres and put them one on top of the other, somewhere on the allotment site. Fill the bottom tyre with compost. Place 3 potatoes in and cover them with more compost. Water.

Keep an eye on your tyres - when you see leaves, cover them up. Keep going until early July, when we will harvest them. If you want to make this into a competition, make sure you make a sign for your potato tyres!



Planting strawberries:

Your strawberry plants can be planted in one of the troughs by the cookery room. They just need regular watering, if it has not rained, and regular weeding. We will harvest them in June, ready for an afternoon of jam making!

