



Pocket Garden Stories 2023



These amazing gardens are inspired by the 2023 themes of Celebration, One Planet Picnic and Wildlife Gardening. Pocket Garden is delivered in partnership with Garden for Life.

Winners: 2023 Public Vote

1st Place: Newmains Primary School

2nd Place: Firpark Primary School

3rd Place: Flowerbank Early Childhood Centre

Winner: 2023 One Planet Picnic Theme

St Andrew's Primary School

Winner: 2023 Celebration Theme

Appletree Nursery

Winner: 2023 Wildlife Gardening Theme

Banchory Academy

Have you been inspired by these amazing Pocket Gardens?
You can create your own [Pocket Garden at home](#) or take part in next year's competition.

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Flowerbank Nursery & Family Centre East Ayrshire
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Musselburgh Burgh Primary School East Lothian

Newmains Primary School Renfrewshire

First Place, 2023 Public Vote

Nicolson Institute Eilean Siar

Pitreavie Playgroup Fife

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St Andrew's Primary School Midlothian

Winner: 2023 One Planet Picnic Theme

St Francis Primary School Glasgow City

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Appletree Nursery

Winner: 2023 Celebration Theme: When Paddington met the queen

Paddington has a place at Nursery for our Rights Respecting Schools Award, we also have an intergenerational partnership with the Nurseries neighbours who we visit who was our Queen for the day.



We have natural meadow areas attracting a variety of wildlife. We have a variety of bedding boxes with food growing and a bubble wrap greenhouse full of fruit and vegetables growing. We used two pallets, cable drums, an old handbag, china, yoghurt cartons. Our local pet shop donated plants, we have won accreditation from R.H.S winning garden tokens, we used these to purchase the metal framework and seeds. Our garden will be on display in our garden entrance for all to see. Our design incorporates fruit, herbs and plants.



A crown on top

Garden Design



Creating the garden – from design to reality





Arnhall Day Nursery

Arnhall's World of Celebrations

Our garden celebrates a variety of different countries celebrations. In Arnhall we have a lot of families that celebrate different festivals and we wanted to include this into our garden.



Our garden is wildlife friendly as it is a 5-star restaurant for the bees and butterflies. We have chard, cauliflower, strawberries, basil, watercress, mint, tomatoes, peas, potatoes, turnip, pak choy and parsley.

We have learned about different celebrations that the following countries celebrate... Scotland- burns day Brazil- carnival Spain- tomato festival Ireland- St Patrick's day China- Chinese New Year and Argentina winning the world cup.

The children went on a trip to the garden centre to buy the correct materials.



Lots growing



A tyre of countries



Wooden spoon markers

We have also had a lot of parental involvement. After our garden is finished the children will continue to care for the plants and we will also do some cooking and tasting with our plants.

Creating the garden – from design to reality



Our Pocket Garden is created by using recycled materials such as, clothing, plant pots, pipes, wood, a tyre and a pallet.





Banchory Academy

Winner: 2023 Wildlife Gardening Theme: John Muir's Legacy

Banchory Academy's entry for the Pocket Garden 2023 is celebrating the life of John Muir and is inspired by the Yosemite National Park that he helped to create in 1890. John Muir was born in Dunbar, Scotland and is the founder of the modern conservation movement. We are passionate about nature and working and learning outdoors, so this is a tribute to the wonderful work John Muir started. We also have pupils working towards the various levels of the John Muir Award, so his legacy is an important focus for outdoor work.



Within our garden you will find a variety of wildflowers and plants, such as thistles, heathers, wildflowers, honeysuckle, and ferns as well as a variety of herbs and alpine plants. Our garden is also home to our edible plants; potatoes, broad beans, mangetout, red veined sorrel, radishes, strawberries, thyme, sage, chives, lemon balm, mustard, and greens such as cress to provide a blanket for our Yosemite pastures.



Enjoying the outdoors



Hot air balloon



Hiking boots

We grew our broad beans, mangetout, mustard, radishes and wildflowers from seed and propagated our willow and strawberries. We purchased our small plants from a local garden centre, and our pupils met with someone there to select and discuss which plants would be most suitable. Our mangetout seeds were harvested from last year's crop and the other seeds were donated by interested members of the community. We have had support from members of the local rotary club, who came in and supported some of our pupils to construct our self-watering strawberry post.

We have used walking boots as planting pots to remind us of the 1000-mile journey that John Muir walked. We used some of his famous quotes to signpost our garden. We have included mushroom logs, some naturally growing on decomposing wood and some silver birch which we have inserted shitake mushroom plugs into. Our drainpipe water feature, fed by our recycled tip-tap, is a nod to Yosemite Falls. It cascades down over keystone rock and into our small water container pond.

Our garden is a haven for insects, it includes an insect hotel, a solitary bee log slice and a bird box, all handmade by pupils, who have been learning about the 'bee pastures' John Muir wrote about. We are particularly proud of our bespoke hedgehog house.

Our garden is full of recycled items, we have reclaimed wood from pallets and foraged for wood to make our bee house and to whittle our mushrooms and John Muir figure. It is planted with permaculture in mind, combining flowers and edible plants to maximise pollination.

The garden is organic, we have used our own compost and our homemade worm tea fertilizer to encourage growth. Our recycled wheelbarrow, boots, bottles, food waste planter and old wood stumps remind us of the importance of repurposing items.

For interest, and to add to the story of John Muir a wire eagle flies high above the Yosemite mountains, soaring over its nest up high. Also floating high in the sky is a paper hot air balloon inspired by one of John Muir's quotes. Bunting showing the air, wind and water symbols compliments our theme.

We have learned how to grow plants from seed and propagate smaller plants to add to our numbers. We have learned how to use tools required to work successfully with wood. We have worked from a plan and made amendments as and when required, using problem solving skills if things did not go to plan.

Pupils have worked together to plant in a small area and show an understanding of how plants can be used to tell a story. We have found out about the importance of recycling and that anything can be used to create an interesting planting space. Pupils have learned why it is important to encourage wildlife into our gardens and how they can do this. It has been a team effort, everyone drawing on their abilities and helping each other to create this wonderful Pocket Garden.



We will enjoy this garden for many months, inviting visitors and the local community to share it with us. Our end of school term tea party will provide the opportunity to share the garden with the wider school community. After which, we will be planting out these plants in our school wildlife area, to add colour and variety to our rockery around our wildlife pond.

Creating the garden – from design to reality





The hedgehog house will hopefully become home to the rescue hedgehogs we have applied to rehome, and our insect hotel, bird box and bee slice will be joining our other wildlife homes in our garden. We will be celebrating our Pocket Garden on our Instagram page, and it will continue to help us teach about the wonderful work of John Muir.





Buchanhaven Primary School

Celebrating our Scottish Queens

Our Gardening Club consists of approximately 10 children, predominantly P1 and P2, all of whom have been really excited to be involved in our school's first ever entry for the competition! We meet weekly after school and have been keen to plant a range of wildflowers and plants to help encourage more wildlife into our playground, as well as growing plants that we can eat.

At the beginning of 2023, when we started to think about our entry, there were 2 clear contenders for Scottish legends/ inspirational figures to base our Celebratory Garden on- Nessie and Queen Elizabeth II, We decided on the title of our garden to be 'Celebrating our Scottish Queens'.



Recycled tyre Nessie



Bugmoral Castle



Regal purple flowers

Our first Scottish Queen, is Nessie. The loch Ness monster is such a famous Scottish legend, the children felt couldn't have a garden without her! We spent some time thinking about how we could create her, and managed to recycle some small tyres to help to create her famous curves, with a repurposed bottle as her head. Across her body we have sunk in edible pea plants to help recreate her scales, which we can pick and eat.

To represent Loch Ness, we have chosen a combination of blue and purple flowers aimed at encouraging pollinators: such as cornflower, chives, lobelia and comfrey and forget-me-nots, and pansies.

Queen Elizabeth II, has had such a close ties with Aberdeenshire, and Granny to the nation, the P1s and P2s were particularly keen to include her in our design. We thought hard about how we could represent her- and felt creating a living wall 'stamp', planting her image in strawberries would not only provide something deliciously edible and attract the pollinators, but also represent her as the Queen of Hearts. Hopefully we can share the strawberries with the rest of our classes later in the year! We managed to get a handy Dad to create a frame for the bottle wall to sit in and asked the school to donate empty bottles that we could fill and plant with strawberries. The Head was made from a recycled food poster from a restaurant.



All Queens need a Castle! We got some help from a crafty parent to make 'Bugmoral Castle' a fairytale insect habitat, repurposing bits of Pallet to create a safe haven for our new residents. It is filled with range of bug friendly natural resources like pinecones, sticks, bark and leaves which we collected from a local garden.

One pupil had the wonderful idea of planting a crown! Thanks to a clever Dad, we were able to make one using curved metal rings made from a recycled barrel to create a spherical 'balloon' crown shape. We hope it will be the perfect plant support for the nasturtiums and petunias- in regal purple and gold. Trailing bacopia represents all the pearls on her crown. Hanging teacups filled with bird food allows our feathery friends to enjoy the garden too.

As our Pocket Garden is about Scottish Queens, the group wanted to grow thistles for Scotland. We managed to get some donated Teasel and Sea Holly plants. Their flowers are shaped like thistles and we discovered that the birds and insects love them as they provide a winter food source! The children were keen to include sunflowers as they are another food source and a favourite flower in the gardening group! Unfortunately, it has taken several attempts to stop the flowers from 'bolting' in our hot classrooms.

Behind Nessie, on the banks of the 'Loch', in front of Queen Elizabeth and Bugmoral Castle, we have planted green edibles, such as rocket, salad greens, onions, and mint and coriander.



The group have really enjoyed working with other children from throughout the school to plan, plant, build and nurture the Garden, as well taking home any extra little plants that haven't been needed!

We've enjoyed getting our hands muddy and planting seeds and bulbs to get ready for the competition. We have created Pocket Garden in pots, so the plants we've grown can be spread throughout the school to add some more colour and hopefully encourage more wildlife to visit our playgrounds.

Garden Design



Creating the garden – from design to reality



Bun Sgoil Lacasdail

Gàrradh a' Mhetagama

Our garden celebrates and marks the 100th anniversary of the S.S Metagama which sailed from Stornoway on 21st April 1923 bound for Canada with 300 emigrants on board.

We have chosen this subject as we had taken part in the Dileab project which celebrated the Metagama. Throughout the project, the pupils have learned a lot about the culture and history of the island.



Our garden is wildlife friendly as it includes a bug hotel, bird feeder and is bee friendly. There are a lot of edibles growing in the garden. There are strawberries, lettuce, tomatoes, rhubarb, carrots, turnip and radishes. All grown by the pupils from seeds and the kale was donated from the community and a donation to a local charity was made.

We painted stones with the names of those who left on the Metagama from Laxdale. We also focused on bees and painted bees on stones around the Metagama. The pupils learned a lot about bees and their importance and also how to help protect them. We reused pallets, stones, rope and pots and smaller logs which we had as a school. This was keeping with our Eco schools action plan to reuse and recycle materials.

The pupils experience a rich learning experience from the project and learned new skills including:

- Communicating with external partners during the design and construction process.

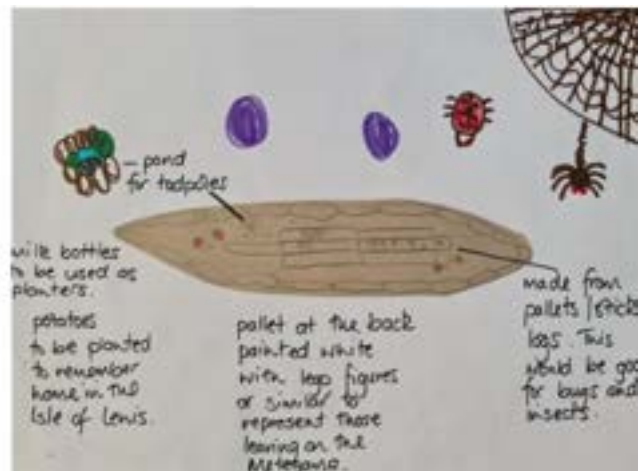
- Exploring design options for the garden based on the Metagama.
- Developing and communicate ideas to create a design based on the Metagama.
- Ensuring conservation and recycling of materials in line with our Sustainability plan.
- Exploring problem solving strategies when planting and building the garden.

We have made several links with the community including getting logs from the Sawmill and donation of kale from Sandwickhill Dance Studio.

We are going to continue to grow the fruit and vegetables after the project and in the future. It is a fantastic reminder of the Dileab project and is a fantastic place to grow.

We have thoroughly enjoyed being part of this project and the pupils have had a rich learning experience and have benefitted hugely from being outside and learning outside in the polytunnel.

Garden design



Caledonian Road School

Garden of Possibilities

Our 'Garden of Possibilities' celebrates the various outdoor areas we love and are lucky to have access to during our time at school. Some of us don't always have the opportunity to play outside in our own communities as we can find social situations challenging and this can be misunderstood by others but accessing outdoor spaces as part of our learning is very important to us as we know it makes us feel good. During the planning stage of our design, we decided that our favourite outdoor spaces were the beach, woodlands, back garden and near a body of water (pond, loch, sea). During discussions about our favourite outdoor areas make them feel and the responses included calm, free, energised and creative. We used our favourite places combined with how we feel about them to influence what we wanted to include in our Pocket Garden design.





Back of the garden



Hanging baskets



Lots growing

Being wildlife friendly was an important aspect our Pocket Garden design and because of this we chose plants that were good for pollinators (some of these are still in the early stages) We were conscious of providing food for our native birds that often frequent our playground so we made some bird feeders to create a bird bistro. We had fun making these look like insects (a bee and a ladybird) We have to refill these every day as part of maintaining our garden.

While researching birds, we discovered that birds love having access to a bath and a source of water. This led to us including a bird bath that we made out of large cotton reels we were gifted by workmen that had been at the school and a plant saucer. Using the RSPB website's advice, we placed a layer of small stones on the saucer to help the birds grip on to. We placed some larger stones around the outside so that a creature can climb out in the event that it falls in by accident. One of our pupils used a piece of wood to create a 'bridge' across the bird bath for insects and birds to walk across. We used coffee tins to create bug hotels for insects to cosy up in. Using electrical tape, we made these look more attractive for very little cost.

When planting edible plants we wanted to grow things that we would like to eat like strawberries but also that our guinea pigs would like to munch on too. We decided on cauliflower as we know our guinea pigs love them. We also planted peas, rocket, lettuce, tomatoes, runner beans and mint. We seem to have had some little visitors who like the leaves of our cauliflower as they had lots of chunks missing! We have planted potatoes in grow bags too but they were too big to include in the Pocket Garden dimensions but that's okay because we are looking to extend our garden to include more fruit and vegetables in the future.



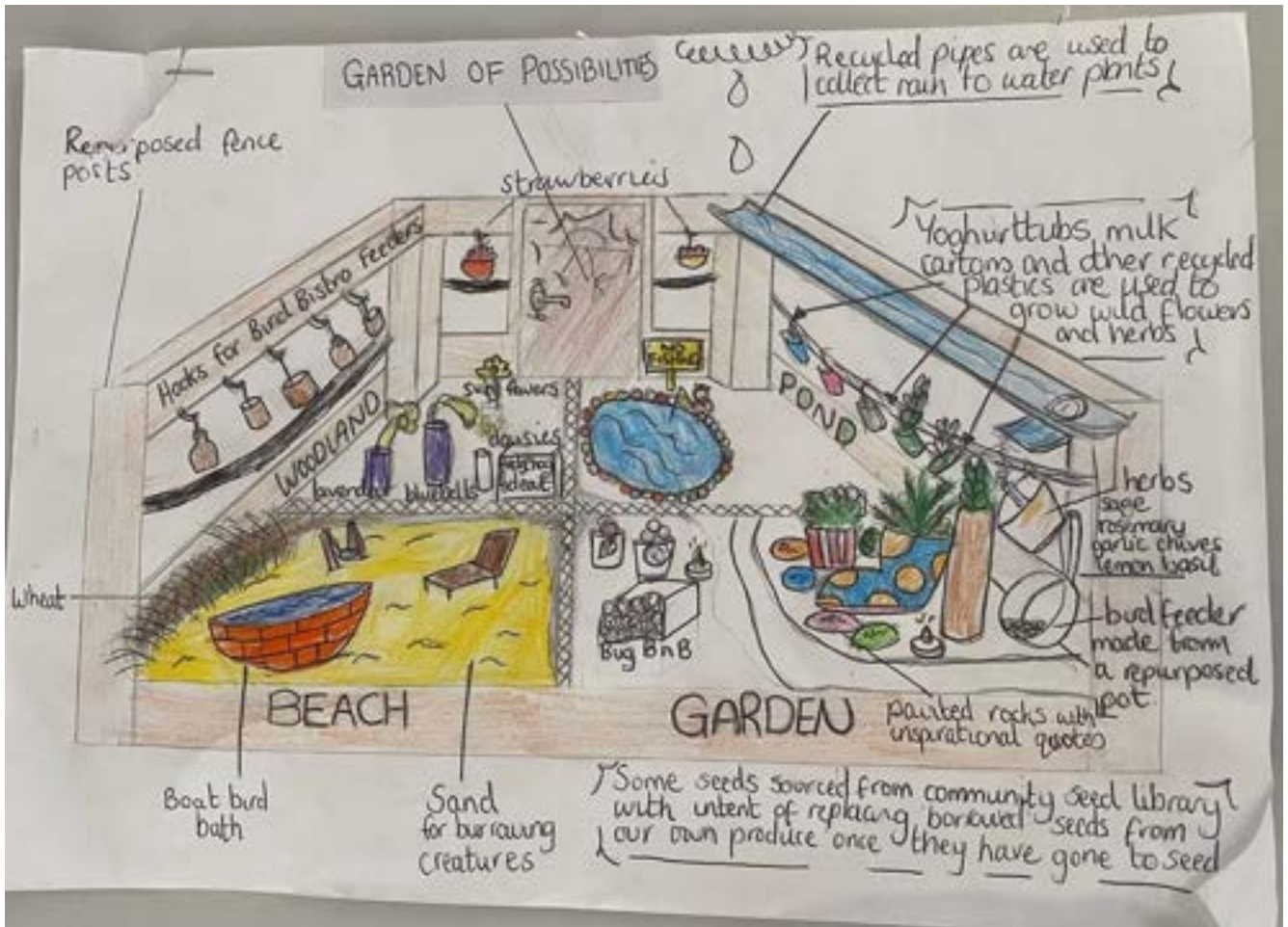
Many of the parts of our garden were made from pre-owned and pre-loved items. We used a pallet as our base and our Secondary pupils added pre-used fence posts and wood to create a vertical frame so we could include as many plants as possible. We were extremely lucky to receive lots of pre-used plant pots from a generous lady when we posted on Weebay in Dunoon asking for materials to use in our garden. To start off our seedlings, we used plastic tubs that once contained various liquid and food items like cream or noodles. Our resident cook has been really helpful by keeping us buckets that once contained mayonnaise or peeled boiled eggs. We have used these buckets as hanging baskets; to create different levels and to create a mini pond. We have used a crate to elevate some of our plants to a higher level to create more visual interest and allow them to get more sunlight.

Creating the garden – from design to reality



Creating our Pocket Garden has been an incredible learning curve. We have learned that the weather can be kind but also cruel and has a significant impact on the germination and growth of plants. We are already looking forward to creating a greenhouse using our Pocket Garden frame so that we can begin growing earlier while protecting our seedlings from the harsh elements.

We have learned about plants that are good for pollinators and that different plants require different growing conditions with some being more hardy than others. We have learned that when we work as a team we can accomplish great things and having a deadline to work towards motivated us to complete things in a timely manner. This is only the beginning and we are already looking forward to developing our outdoor area further.



Our school and local community have been invaluable resources in providing us with pre-used items like plant pots as well as donating seedlings and plants. Our local library has a seed library that has allowed us to 'borrow' seeds with the intention of replacing them once our plants have gone to seed. Being able to choose the seeds we would like to plant with no cost and learning about the life cycle of a plant are two fantastic benefits of this service. We would like to give back to the local community by replacing the seeds, donating other seeds and distributing any excess food that we manage to grow (if the local wildlife doesn't get there first!)

We have had great fun planting seeds, caring for seedlings and watching our garden grow. We are looking forward to harvesting our crops and hope everyone loves our garden as much as we do.



Clackmannanshire Schools Support Services

All Aboard the Eco Bus

The initial idea for our garden came from one of our S1 pupils. This pupil is very interested in buses and enjoys regularly travelling around Clackmannanshire for free with his Young Person's Travel Card. Lots of our pupils have benefited from the free bus travel initiative, so we decided to celebrate buses for the independence and freedom they give young people as well as the benefits public transport has on the environment.





Tyre bug hotel



Tasty things growing



Tin can planter

After we decided on the theme of the garden. The eco schools class worked together to plan what the garden would look like and be made of. We created a small 3D model to plan the basic structure of our garden design. The feedback we got from our initial design suggested we should include more edible plants in our final design. We decided to make all the plants in our garden edible, that way we could use them in cookery lessons in the future. Pupils grew all the plants in the garden from donated seeds and sowed them in trays on the classroom windowsills. Pupils were able to watch the plants change and grow every day.

We put up a poster on our Eco Schools notice board asking for donations of seeds, plastic plant pots, tin cans, car tires, wood off cuts and twine. We received lots of materials from staff and support workers across the school. A local garage donated the old car tires to use in the project. Pupils also collected plastic bottles and tin cans from home. We used leftover wood from technical projects to form the base of the raised bed. Pupils painted other old bits of plywood to make the bus signage and number plate. We have two willow dens on our school grounds which regularly need pruned, so we wanted to make use of it in our garden design. We cut willow and left it to soak in a bucket of water for a few days then we wove it around some posts to form the sides of the vegetable bed.



We created bug hotels inside the tires using sticks and dead leaves also collected from the school grounds. These will give insects and other wildlife a safe place to nest.

Pupils really enjoyed leading this project and coming up with creative solutions for reusing and repurposing materials. Some of the skills we have learned on this project such as the willow weaving we hope to use again in future projects. Once the competition is over the garden will be maintained with pupils continuing to weed and water the plants. We hope to harvest some of our vegetables soon and use them in cookery lessons, then we will plant the bed up with a new crop next year.

A Garden of Celebration - Plan

My name is Jackson and I am very interested in buses. Very very very very very interested in buses. I use my new bus to travel around Clackmannanshire.

I chose my theme of my garden because buses are trying to become eco friendly and I think that is good. They are putting more electric buses on and using less petrol which is better for the environment.

We are using the shape of a bus for the garden. We will use the willow from the school to make the bus. We are using plastic bottles recycled to get the water in so it can drain to the soil. The wheels are made out of plastic bottle recycled tops and old car tyres. On the front of the bus it will say "We are eco friendly".

I want pink flowers because I like the colour. The bus will have pink tulips and thistles. For wildlife we are using the flower coney which the bees like and so we can fertilise the flowers.



Creating the garden – from design to reality



Cornhill Primary School

Celebrations by Seasons

Our garden celebrates multi-faith and multicultural celebrations through the seasons. We chose to visit multiple celebrations throughout the year because our class has such a diverse mix of cultures, nationalities and beliefs.



Spring Celebrations



Summer Celebrations



Autumn Celebrations

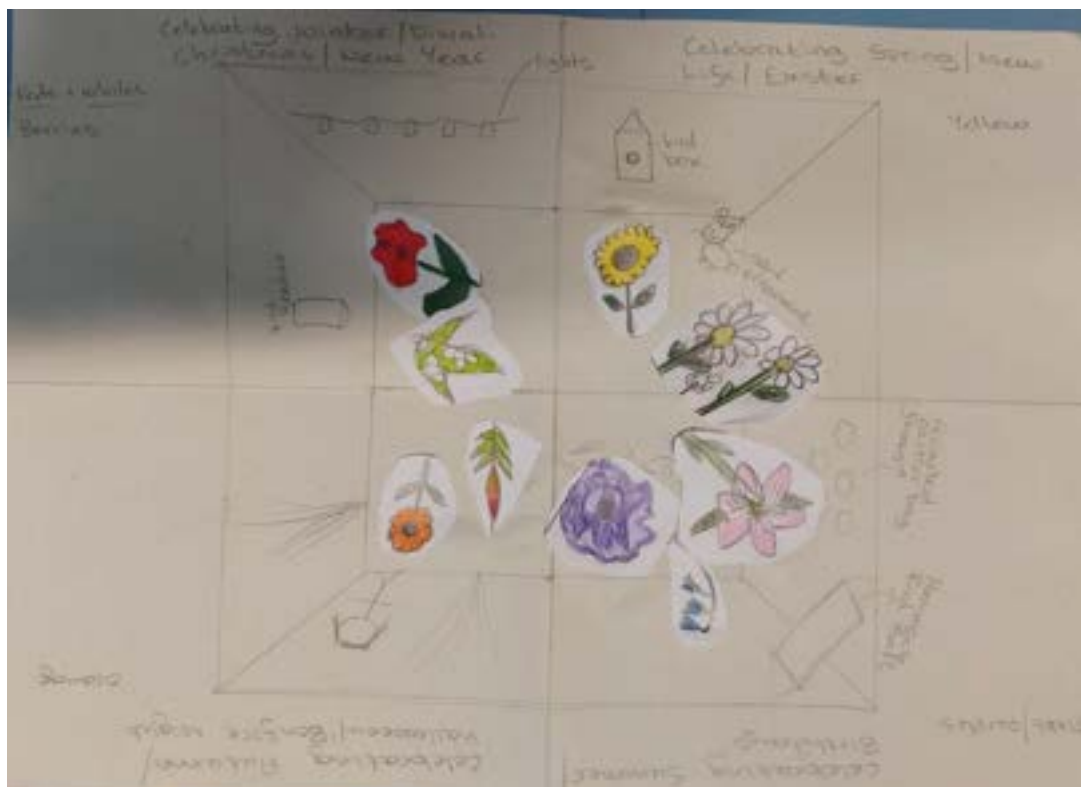


Winter Celebrations

We have bird feeders, bug hotels and bee attracting plants to make our garden wildlife friendly. We have grown peas, pumpkins, yellow peppers, carrots and tomatoes in our garden. We reused bamboo canes, autumn leaves, broom, evergreen shrubs, stones and material for the scarecrows.

We have learned that sharing is key to teamwork. Sometimes the weather is harsh in Scotland and things do not grow as quickly as we would like. Gardening takes time and patience. We have worked with/ had donations from family members, local plant shops and our community garden group. Our garden will be separated. All the plants will either go home with pupils for their gardens or be planted in the school garden. This is P6's second year of entering the Pallet Competition. We absolutely love taking part.

Garden Design



Creating the garden – from design to reality



Craigiebarns Primary School

Bee City

Our garden celebrates bees and the importance of them in nature. Throughout the year in our science lessons we have been learning about the life cycles of plants and animals as well as biodiversity and interdependence so this was a relevant theme for us. We are extremely lucky that our school has a very green and natural setting, with a lot of wildlife around. The children often find tired bees in the playground and have learned about how to help them.





Toadstool house



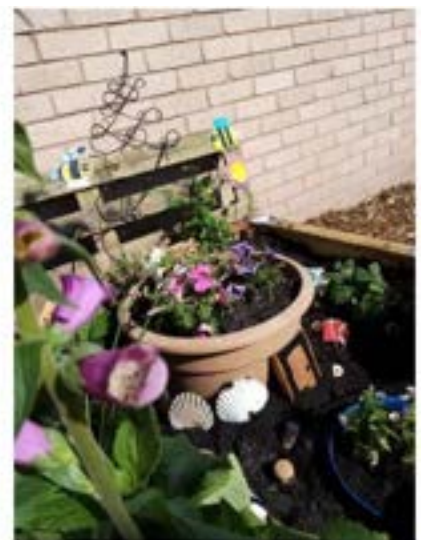
Wave trellis



Seashells and water

We decided on a bee-friendly garden to ensure that there were always plants and flowers, e.g. Thyme, Lavender, Allium, Foxglove and Honeysuckle, that would be attractive to bees and help them survive. We also included plenty of places that they can hide and nest. Since we live in a coastal area the design represents a seaside town including shells, water and a trellis that reminded us of waves in the sea.

We have included some well known edible elements such as strawberries and the apple tree but, since we have been working a lot on challenging ourselves and trying new things in P7 we also planted a cape gooseberry and talked about how lavender can be used in cooking. Everyone tried the thyme and chives, which were new flavours for many.

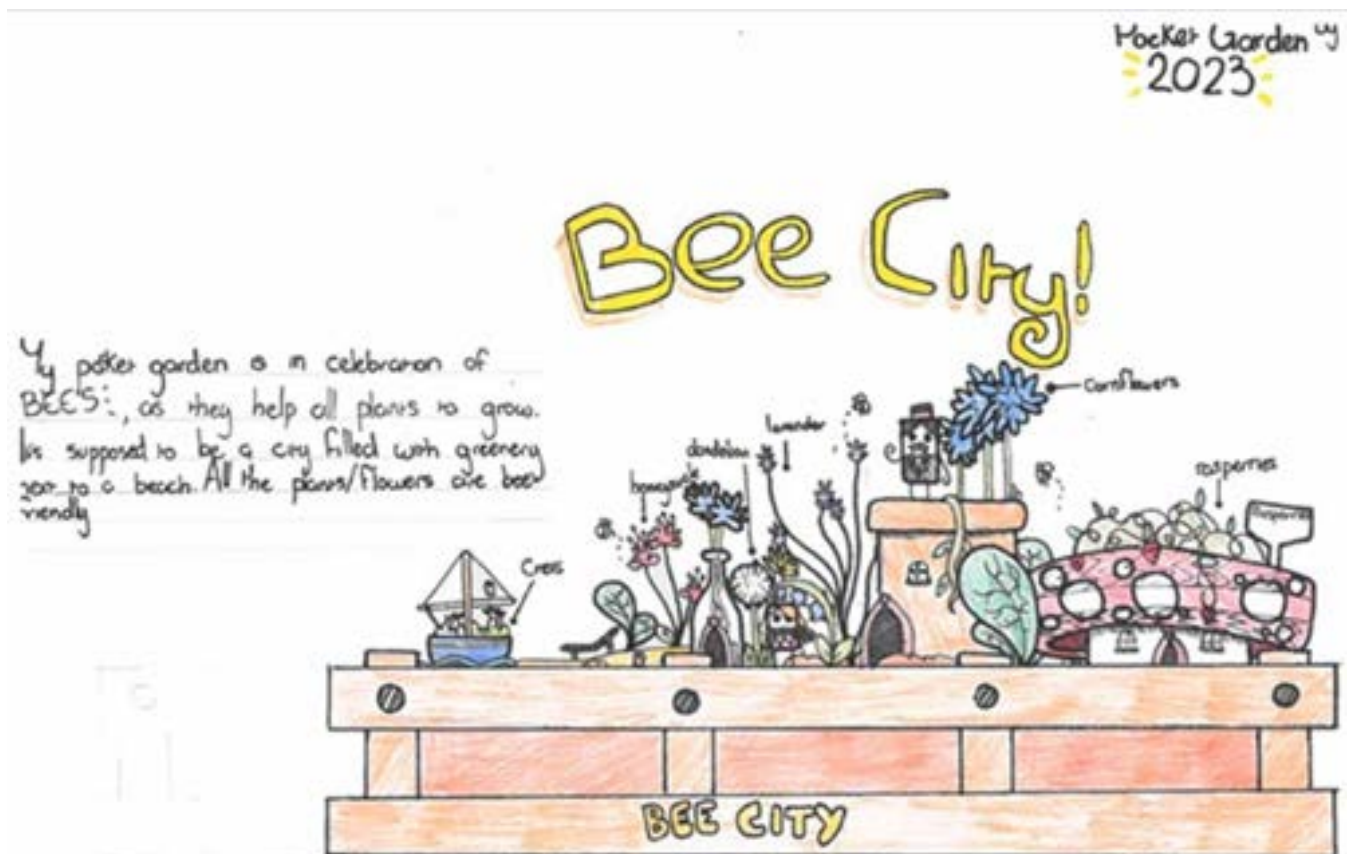


We used all recycled materials to make our garden. The base was built by our school janitor, using discarded pallets from our neighbouring secondary school and we sourced everything else from our local Scrap Antics 'Scrap Store'.

As a school we have strong links with Scrap Antics through Loose Parts Play, which has been a focus for us in raising attainment in numeracy and maths, so it was great to be able to continue their work on recycling and sustainability in this way. We also received donations from families and teachers. Some of the plants were grown from seed in the school's edible garden, which every class takes a turn at being responsible for throughout the year.

We obviously learned a lot about the life cycles of plants, their importance and how they grow, but we also learned more about teamwork and co-operation. Every child in the class contributed to the garden by making one of the bee or flower decorations. We are also building two other gardens from a combination of the children's designs which did not make it to the final showcase to allow everyone to have hands on experience.

We have installed the garden in the Primary 1 playground so that we can share it, and our knowledge, with our P1 buddy class. We agreed it was a nice way to leave something meaningful behind when the children move on to secondary school after the summer.



Creating the garden – from design to reality



Craigmarloch School

“Doon the Water” to the Port

This garden celebrates the history, people and environment of Inverclyde which the class explored during their Outdoor Learning Community access time this term.



We planted flowers to attract bees in the early art of the season as well as later on in the term, as well as planting herbs (mint , chives, feverfew) and edibles like broad beans, strawberries and 3 types of lettuce.



Garden statues



We are sailing



Lots of repurposing

We re-used and upcycled items from around the school and have also realized that not everything you plant actually grows. We have had help from members of staff who donated plants as well as using Parklea (Branching Out) and obviously businesses for the pallets. The garden will remain in situ outside Base 2 class for all to admire, although the statues will come indoors at night!

Creating the garden – from design to reality



Lucas, Sara, Logan, Christopher, Juliet
Pocket garden competition done by 5 pupils in Base 2 class
aged 12-18 years.

Our garden "Doon The Water (to the Port)" shows some of
the places in Inverclyde the pupils like to visit during their
community access outdoor learning time.

It also incorporates the local history through social subjects.



First job was to salvage 3 pallets and
then put the best parts together to make
the frame for our garden.



Next was measuring,
sawing and hammering.



We got help with the construction from our friend Shay in S6.

Then we lined the pallet with old compost bags and filled it with growing medium ready to plant our garden.



We planted some seeds and looked after them.



Lucas was the chief painter of our boat feature and flower troughs.





Now for the best bit,
getting our hands dirty and
planting.

We grew some plants from
seed, salvaged some from
other gardens and bought
some from our partners at
Parklea.



Then we all helped get our beach troughs
ready.





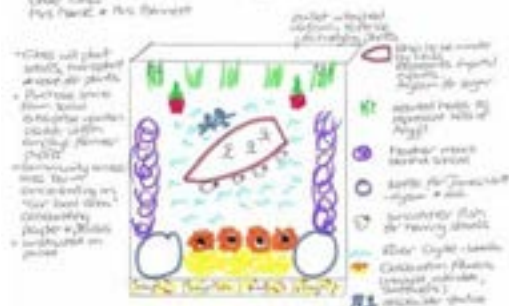
We got ready to add some art work.



We tried to make the Shipbuilders of Port Glasgow statues but it was very difficult. Thankfully our tech department helped out and made them from off cuts of wood and we covered them with used tinfoil.



Proposed Garden plan 2023
Competition: Port Glasgow, Port Glasgow
Year 10
Mrs. H. H. H.



From our proposed garden design it evolved over the weeks to show other areas of Inverclyde that we visited.

Crookfur Primary School

In Summer

As we are working towards the school's next Green Flag our Eco-Committee was eager to promote the Pocket Garden campaign. This was also shared with families of the school through our school weekly update which generated excitement across the school. After the entries were submitted the committee voted for this design with some pupils commenting that the glorious summer weather can be unpredictable in Scotland and that when it arrives both adults and children like to celebrate and enjoy it as it makes them feel happy.



Prior to constructing the Pocket Garden both staff and pupils used their knowledge of growing plants to determine the best location that provided all the requirements such as shelter from the wind, on flat land and an area that had enough sunlight. We also had to ensure that all materials used were suitable for the weather conditions at this time of year, for example, using waterproof paint. The chosen location was at the front of the school entrance where it can be shared with the local community and visible to parents, guardians and visitors.

With the inspiration of Summer, we decided to plant brightly coloured flowers and use themed decorations to represent visiting a beach with the hope of promoting happiness and excitement for the lead up to summer. When gathering the resources to create the Pocket Garden we were very lucky to receive some plant donations from parents and teachers which we are very appreciative for. We also used this opportunity to support our community by visiting the local garden centre to purchase some of our decorations such as a net, shells and fans.



Pupils collaborated brilliantly to construct this design and bring it to life through perseverance and problem-solving. Some children painted ceramic pots to look like sunscreen bottles.

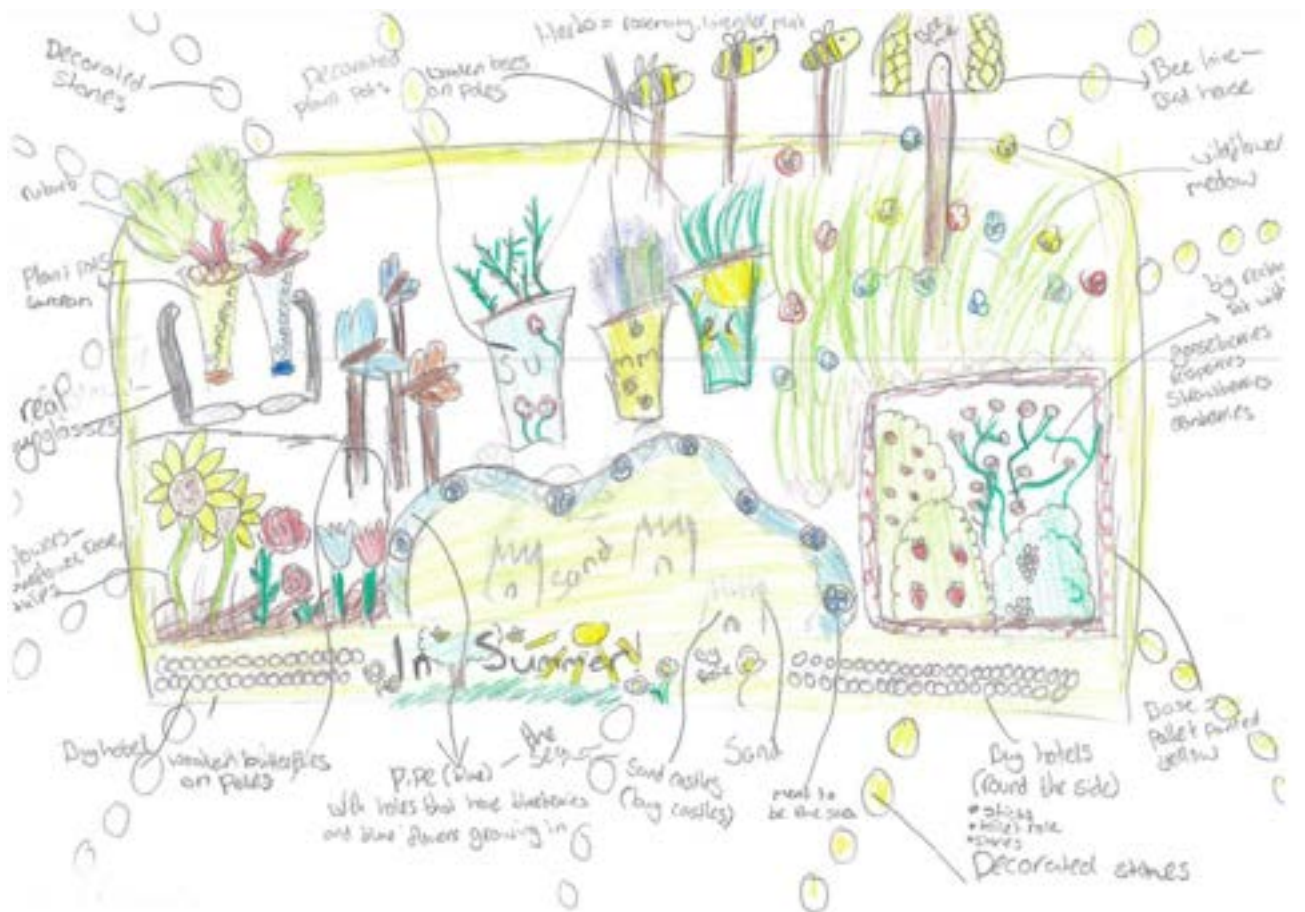
We also opted to upcycle wooden pallets that were used for deliveries and were fortunately already painted red which is the colour of our school uniform. These have been positioned around our Pocket Garden to create viewing platforms and the pupils discovered tree stumps which can be used as seats to relax, embrace the wonderful scents of the flowers coming from the garden and appreciate the natural beauty of the surroundings. Whilst diligently surveying the outdoor area in the school grounds children also found a wooden plank which has been turned into a sign and we have reused an old planter to form the main section of the Pocket Garden.

Over the last couple of weeks, we have been very excited to see that our garden has attracted different wildlife, including bees, birds, worms and other types of insects. We have encouraged birds to visit the garden by incorporating a bird bath and a bird house which the pupils decorated to look like a beach hut – in keeping with our theme. Alongside our main Pocket Garden area we have grown strawberries, peppers and tomatoes which we are eventually hoping can be picked and incorporated into class lessons exploring different types of food.

This opportunity has taught some pupils leadership skills such as being responsible for caring for the plants and can hopefully offer future valuable learning opportunities such as exploring plant growth and habitats. Throughout this process the pupils building the Pocket Garden showed excellent teamwork and communication skills to accomplish their tasks.

After this competition concludes we plan to have the garden remain a permanent fixture on our school grounds and overtime adapt the theme and potentially add some new features. The Eco-Committee and all those involved will also encourage classes to use this area for different purposes for example using it as a stimulus for writing lessons, to explore wildlife and act as a nurturing and safe space for those that would like to visit it.

Garden design



The garden – from design to reality



Culbokie Primary School

The Year of the Rabbit

Our Garden is a celebration of the Chinese New Year – the Year of the Rabbit. We chose this because it is a year long celebration. We have lots of spring and summer flowers to provide food for insects early on in the year such as Pansies Lavender and Bugle. We also have peas and carrots to provide food for the pupils later in the summer. These were grown at home in Maisie's greenhouse.



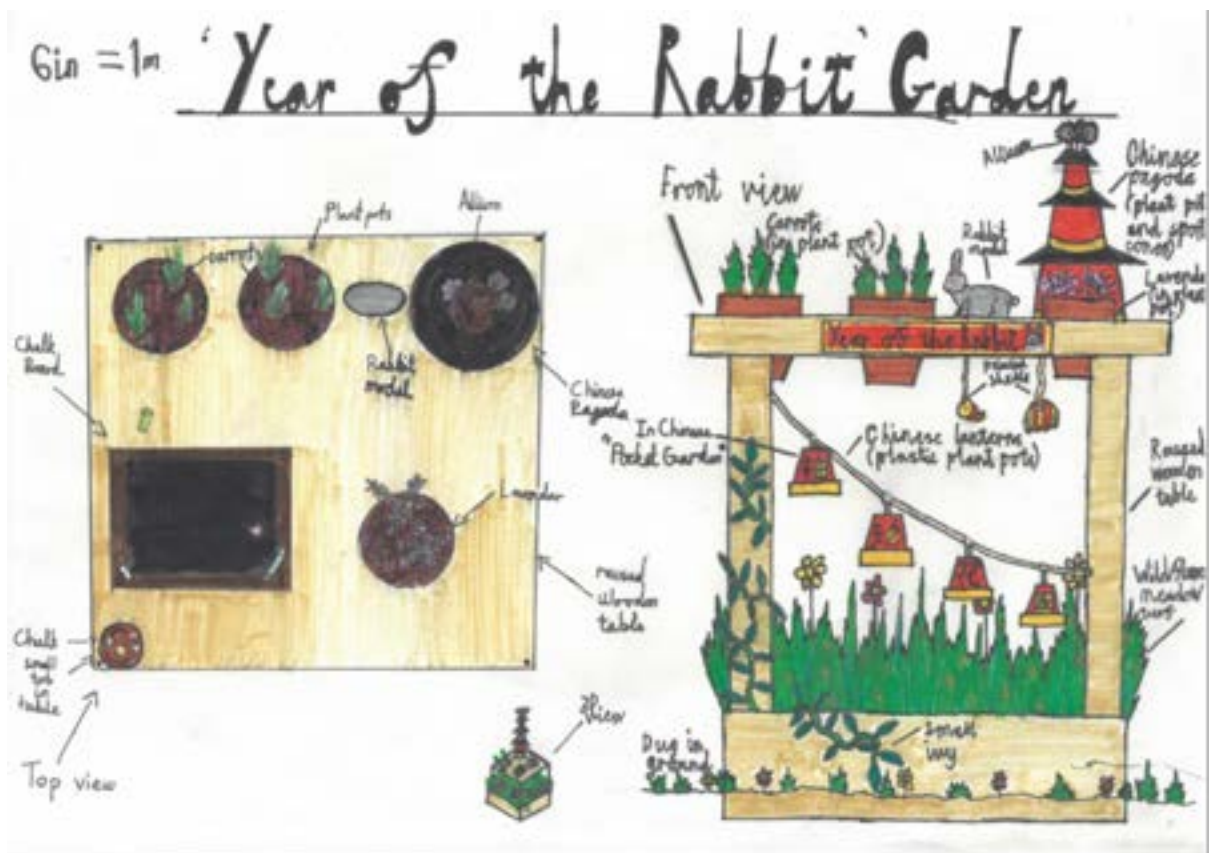
The basic garden structure is made out of two pallets that were sitting by the bins waiting to go to the dump! A friendly neighbour helped to turn them into a planter.

Our Eco Committee is made up from pupils from P5-7. This was a great opportunity to work together and become friends. We learned that it is really good to listen to people's ideas as this helps to create something even better

We are particularly proud of the self-watering system. Its working brilliantly. Also our bunting spells out Year of the Rabbit in Chinese. We worked really hard to get that right!

Next year the new Eco committee will take it over our Pocket Garden and care for it.

Garden Design



Year of the Rabbit



Beautiful pergola



Chinese character bunting

Creating the garden – from design to reality



Dalbeattie Primary School

St Edward's Coronation Crown

Our garden is designed to be a celebration of the Coronation of Charles III. We chose this as our theme because as a school, we wanted to commemorate the Coronation and link it to the King's keen interest in the environment.





Colourful gemstones



Crowning glory



Purple velvet flowers

We have used recycled items such as an old tractor tyre, unwanted log trim, recycled metal trim from an old window casing and recycled log sacks. We used recycled foil from Easter eggs to make the jewels.

To make our garden wildlife friendly, we have added many flowers: violas, petunias, nasturtiums and poached egg plant flowers. We have made sure we used peat free compost. It is hoped the flowers will attract minibeasts, particularly bees. No pesticides or fungicides will be used.

We have both chives and runner beans as the edible parts of our garden. We have learned that not all things go according to plan. We had to problem solve easier ways to create safer jewels. We also had to have a re-think when our first crown top blew off in high winds.

When the competition is finished, we shall leave the garden in place for as long as it is blooming. Then we shall empty the contents and transfer which plants can be kept. The compost will be added to our playground planters and the tyre will be added to our outdoor nurture play area.

An interesting thing we would like to share is that our Pocket Garden was also showcased in our school's Community Big Help Out Event. As part of the Coronation weekend, the school pupil council organised a quiz/map round the town to visit all the places where pupils' own homes or gardens were decorated for the Coronation.

At each location people were to gather a letter for an anagram. At the end of the trail, they were also to vote for their favourite place (winners are to be announced this week in school) and along the way, people were to do one good deed. It could be: picking up litter; donating an item to Dalbeattie Food bank; or donating a little extra money to Dalbeattie First Responders group or Kippford RNLI. The event was in keeping with the May 8th focus on volunteering. The garden then featured in our photograph of the school pupil council presenting their donated food items to the organizer of the local Dalbeattie Food Bank.

We were also pleased that two local businesses supported the costs of constructing our garden (Dalbeattie Spar and Dalbeattie Garden Centre.)



St Edward's Crown For the Coronation

Willow lengths will be cut from the school nursery's willow tunnel and used to shape the top parts of crown. Runner beans and climbing nasturtiums will be grown up these.

Jewels on the crown will be made from bases of green, blue and clear glass bottles. They will be ground at edges to take away sharp edges.

Unwanted log trim from a flowerbed will be used to form the circular gold rim on which jewels will be stuck.



Inside the tractor tyre will be filled with peat free compost and will be planted up with chives and purple flowers to create the purple velvet part of the crown.

Our project garden has been designed by the P5-7 members of our School Eco Group.

Theme of Celebration: It is designed to be a celebration of the Coronation of King Charles III.

Materials used: We have planned to use recycled and unwanted items where possible. Compost will be peat free.

One Planet Home Theme and Wildlife Garden Theme: The planting will be mostly edible (Runner Beans, Chives, Nasturtiums) but have been chosen to have bright coloured flowers to look like jewels. Hopefully in May when it would be photographed. It is hoped the flowers will attract insects, particularly bees. No pesticides or fungicides will be used.

Extra from: Primary 5-7 pupils of Dalbeattie Eco Council, Dalbeattie Primary School, Craigston Road, Dalbeattie DA5 6LJ

Other decorations will be made from Bamboo lollipop sticks and offcuts of wood.

Base of crown will be old tractor tyre painted white with black blobs to look like ermine part.

Creating the garden – from design to reality





Foodbank presentation



Firpark Primary School

Second Place 2023 Public Vote: Fairy Herb Garden - A Celebration of our NHS

As an ASN school, many of our children know more than most, just how wonderful and invaluable our NHS is. It is a lifeline for many of our families and the tireless work and dedication from the staff makes a positive difference to their lives in times of worry and stress. In recent times, Covid-19 has impacted and affected *all* of our lives and we have all realised just how important our NHS is for us all and how lucky we are to have it.

We have chosen to acknowledge and celebrate this wonderful work in our Pocket Garden.





Fairy hospital



Wishing well



Directions here

From our research, we discovered that Scotland has a long folk-medicine tradition, and plant remedies were the only means of treatment in the 18th Century. Botanical remedies were passed down through the generations by word of mouth, until handwritten collections began to appear. The University of Glasgow created an early medical school, around 1704, and constructed “the Physic Garden,” an herb garden with medicinal plants. The study of plants was essential to the medical students, who learned how to distinguish between them and use them for herbal healing. They were stored in glass jars, in a beautiful carved-wood apothecary cabinet. Some plants widely used in Scotland at the time were known as “fairy herbs” for their seemingly magical powers.

With all of this in mind, we decided to try and combine some of these ideas together to create a Fairy Garden.

Firpark Primary School is an ASN school situated within a joint campus. This year we have been focusing on working collaboratively with Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral Primary school who share our campus too.

We thought that designing and creating a Pocket Garden was a fantastic opportunity to grow and learn together. Our friends in Cathedral Primary School were delighted to help and share their ideas.



All of the plants in our garden are edible and most have been traditionally used for medicinal purposes in the past and to this day. Our fragrant herbs can be used to make delicious dishes and drinks such as tea, soups, pasta and curries. Our flowers can be used to make brightly coloured salads. All the plants and flowers can help to contribute to a healthy diet.

We used old pallets to create the garden structure with the help of a handy friend of our school community! We filled it with soil and then got to work on collecting some resources to create the magical garden. Another handy member of our staff donated a piece of spare MDF and cut it in the rainbow shape.

We reused a large plastic tub for our fairy hospital and covered it in shells that our teacher collected from the beach.

We love Outdoor Learning in Firpark School so we went on a twig hunt to find lots of twigs and sticks to make the roof for our Fairy Hospital and Wishing Well. We recycled a plastic bottle to make a simple an irrigation system, which also references an IV drip used in hospitals.



Creating the garden has created a wealth of learning opportunities for the three P2/3 classes participating in the project. We began by holding a shared sensory session where we talked about the theme of the garden and learned more about how plants were used as medicine long ago.

The children really enjoyed seeing and smelling some plants and herbs. They were surprised to learn that plants can be used to help with lots of different illnesses. They were particularly surprised to learn that you can in fact eat dandelions and use them to make tea!

Planning and creating the Pocket Garden provided lots of opportunities across the Curriculum for learning. Room 6b went on a shopping trip to buy some seeds, soil and other resources. We had lots of fun exploring the soil with our friends in Room 4 and together we planted lots of different seeds.

We also visited a local park and nature reserve to look for signs of spring and see if we could spot a fairy. We took along Flora the Fairy Witch to help us as she is very good friends with the Fairy Folk! Sadly we didn't see any that day, but we had great fun looking and learning about spring.

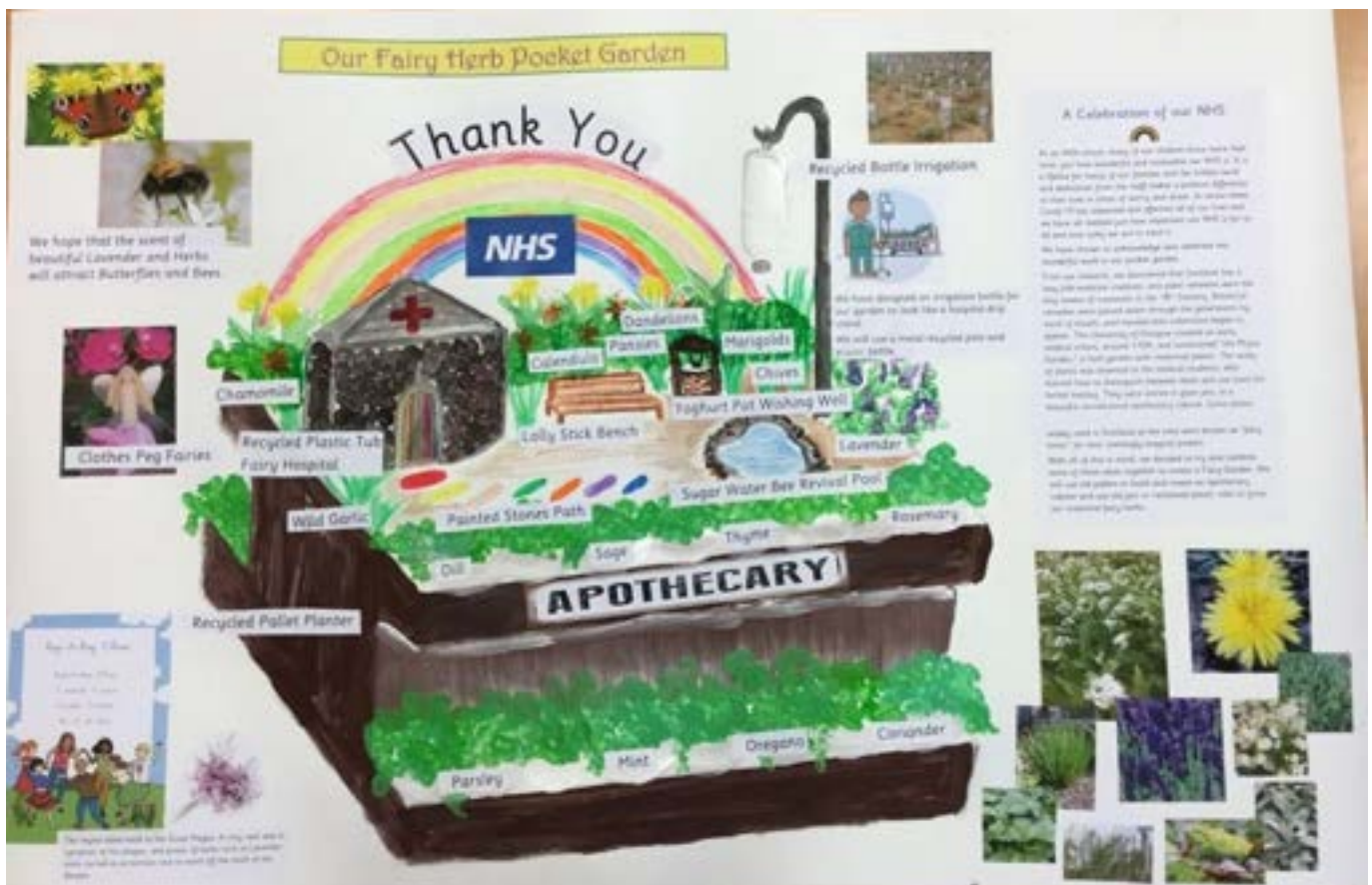
We visited the park again later in spring to look for wild garlic. We decided not to use it in our garden as the judges advised us it would be dying back in May. It still proved to be an excellent sensory learning experience for both the pupils and teachers. We were able to identify the garlic from pictures and the smell. When we became familiar with the smell, we started to find it everywhere by following our noses!

Our friends in Cathedral Primary produced some excellent garden designs following our introductory lesson. We took all of their fantastic ideas and incorporated them into our final design.

They made our wonderful fairies for the garden and were inspired to write some awesome imaginative stories about fairies too!

The Pocket Garden Project has been a fantastic opportunity to learn across all areas of the Curriculum. From the science of how plants grow, recycling, nature, art, medicine, healthy eating, past traditions, folklore and so much more!

We hope to continue to nurture the garden and make it a permanent feature of our playground in Firpark Primary School. We also intend to begin using the herbs we have grown to make some healthy meals. Next year, we plan to work together to create another Pocket Garden for the children in Cathedral Primary to enjoy too. It has been an inspiring journey so far and we hope that we will continue grow and learn together to Keep Scotland Beautiful.



Creating the garden – from design to reality





Flowerbank Early Childhood Centre

Third Place 2023 Public Vote: Child Who Could Be King & Posh Picnic



We had an empty picnic hamper that we wanted to recycle , we wondered what we could put into it ?? Suggestion as to what we could grow in the basket were "lettuce , cucumber and tomato for our sandwiches" "strawberries, it was fancy , like a tea party". The idea of our "Posh Picnic" was born.



Planting the seed. Planting began, we need to keep our seeds warm our nursery laundry became a greenhouse.



Nurturing our Plants. We wanted to use recycling in our design as this was important to the King and to us to look after our planet. We used milk cartons as watering cans. Empty juice cartons became recycled plant pots and growing trays.



Our plants started to come to life. We talked about what they were and the colours the flowers would be. We wondered if we could eat them or not? The children were amazed they would be able to eat some of the flowers.



Construction of our King: We learned about safe use of real tools. And the future job roles these skills could take us to." I could make beds, tables and everything" said Caelen. We chatted about skilled jobs as carpenters and joiners.



We created a scarecrow " Child King" we used an old outdoor suit " so he doesn't get wet outside". We wanted our King to come alive " with plants, flowers beasts and bees on him " said Willow



The children recycled paper to make a "seed crown, that his hair will grow out of" this made the children laugh.



It was time to fill our "Posh Picnic basket ready for Planting" . We all helped.



We needed a design for our King's face. We read a story all about King Charles. We looked at pictures of when he was a boy and what he looks like now. Then we started planting our Pocket Garden.





It was going to be hot over the weekend so we made a drip feeding watering system from old recycled bottles to make sure our garden is watered when we are away.



Our King needed a crown, and children also created royal guests from recycled milk cartons. We made our own Thistles, Daffodils, and Roses from recycled bottles too. This was to represent England, Scotland and Wales. For Northern Ireland we planted a Shamrock.

Our recycled bugs were made from recycled paper and bottles wings, giving a great finishing touch.



Our celebration day gave parents a chance to view our Pocket Garden King. We are so proud of what we achieved.





Our Design.

Garnock Community Campus

Recycled Peter Rabbit Garden

Recycled Peter Rabbit Garden was created to show that recycling helps nature and people by providing them with a viable means of livelihood.

Peter Rabbit was chosen because it is a fantastic story, and our early year's pupils love it most.



To ensure this project is not only for a small group of people creating a garden but the majority of people can participate in this project, pupils started collecting plastic bottles. Each time they brought bottles to us, we explained how we could use them. There are so many ways how to do it. Plastic bottles were used to make a mini greenhouse. It is true that pupils are going to increase this project to a bigger size. Plastic bottles will be converted into walls to make a sheltered gazebo.

Apart from plastic bottles, wood, tyres and pipes were used to make construction and planters. Pupils used cement, and sand to make concrete. They made stones for this project. Stones will be used in other projects to increase biodiversity.



Beetroot and lettuce are still growing in plant pots, and pupils are waiting for better weather to plant into the ground.

Young people understand how weather conditions can change or plant the calendar. Potatoes are growing in bags, and fruit trees are doing well, too.

S3 pupils and student teachers took part in this project. Resources came from local people. Vegetables will be used for soup and other meals. Some vegetables can be used in enterprise projects.

Bird feeders- pupils in science and rural skill make bird feeders using recycling materials like milk bottles, and cardboard. They renovated old bug hotels too.

Edible garden: pupils used seeds from tomato slices to get tomato plants.



Gavinburn Primary School

A Garden of Celebration: Gavinburn Pocket Garden

We have chosen to celebrate our Scottish History and Heritage! We have considered all the design principles of the above heading and of the One Planet Picnic.

We live in a small village in the outskirts of Glasgow called Old Kilpatrick. Our school is situated on an ancient Roman Fort which was part of the Antonine Wall. We chose to combine Scottish Myth and Folklore with the Roman heritage in the area. This was a topic we recently researched for the project.



We have set aside a few areas in our Pocket Garden for wildlife! These include a mini meadow within a naturally hollowed out Tree stump. This was then filled with a wildflower “bomb”. A bug hotel “Edinburgh Castle”, a pollinator’s rest stop, a picnic bench and teacup and tea pot area for birds to rest and enjoy food and water.

All plants grown and used are also safe for consumption and compost is organically produced in our Wormery within the School grounds, which also produces Worm Tea that is a rich source of nutrition for our plants and flowers.

We have created a two-tiered garden of edible plants:

- Low level for low growing, shorter rooted flowering plants
- High level for deeper rooted vegetables like potatoes and spinach, carrots, Garlic and Beans.
- Canes used to allow Beans to climb up structure also.
- Vertical gardening using shelves to expand our growing space:
- Hanging baskets fixed to the side of the garden's structure, made from Irn Bru cans with herbs planted in then.
- Potato bags position at each side of the garden.



Can you spot Nessie?



Edinbug Castle



Mythological creatures

We have incorporated the Roman theme by choosing plants, vegetables and herbs that were introduced by the Romans. We have considered all the design principles.

All the plants and vegetables we have chosen were grown from seed at the school or by the parent volunteers at home. We have chosen to grow spinach, parsnips, potatoes, carrots, garlic, wild strawberries, peas and herbs. Sedum, Violas, Poppies, Corn flowers, Grasses, Calendula, Chives, Greater Celandine, Willow herb, Common Birdsfoot Trefoil.

All of the plants are seasonal and grow well in Scotland. The Pocket Garden is completely organic. We never use pesticides or fungicides that destroy soil life. We make our own compost at school and therefore our soil is ethically sourced. This was used to feed and mulch the allotment bed of the Pocket Garden.

We have a Wormery in our sensory garden at school, where we produce Worm Tea which has been used to feed our garden and encourage growth. In our design all of our building materials have been reclaimed or recycled from our own school ground, homes and gardens. Bricks reclaimed from the school grounds, were used to create our dividing wall, and represent the Antonine Wall.

Wood consisted of reclaimed pallet, plywood, Tree stump hollowed out and branches. Empty Irn-bru cans, compost, reclaimed tiles for Roman Mosaic, reclaimed plastic white guttering for the water element of the Saltire Flag, Willow from trees in School grounds, used for weaving tartan frame. Old cup and tea pot donated by volunteer. Second hand bunting donated by parent volunteer and decorated by children. For Bug hotel, reclaimed wood, old roof felt, sticks, pinecones, dried leaves and lichen.



The walls of the structure are decorated with colourful paintings of mythological creatures, a Kelpie and a Selkie. These also form the basis of our vertical garden which is shelved to display our herb pots and containers. Blue and white low growing plants such as violas have been chosen to recreate the Scottish Saltire Flag and have been planted surrounding some white guttering that incorporates a water section in our Saltire.

This represents the Clyde River which our village is on the banks of and which the Roman's used as a key trading route. Reusing Irn Bru cans as planters is a fun and decorative way of highlighting modern Scottish culture. The Bricks also represent the Antonine Wall between Old Kilpatrick and Bo'ness. A small mosaic section with the School Crest is displayed on the lower level of the garden, has been carefully created to pay homage to the Roman heritage. Willow weaved from trees located on the school grounds, was used to create a fun, colourful and natural tartan frame decoration.

The Children learned how important teamwork is, to undertake and achieve their collective vision successfully. Also how different people have different skills, abilities and interests, that can be used together to create our finished structure. The importance of good communication skills such as listening to instructions, ideas and concerns and being able to problem solve and reflect through discussions on things that might have been wrong and that it is okay if we make mistakes and how we can adapt and change things. Other things they learned were how to respect the area we were working in with self-awareness and safety always being considered.

They learned how to use hand and power tools safely and in a controlled manner and how to follow plans and criteria from our submission picture. They learned about sustainability and resourcefulness and that scavenging for items and natural resources around the area was lots of fun.

They also learned about the stages and life cycles of the plants as we grew and cared for our seedlings and garlic bulbs. The different shapes, sizes, colour, texture, taste and smells of each type.

We have been able to undertake this project and create our Pocket Garden due to having four parent volunteers who work alongside the children weekly and promote activities that encourage biodiversity and sustainability within the School grounds.

Seeds and plant bulbs such as garlic were donated by the volunteers who grow some vegetables and plants at home. The School staff/teachers have also been very supportive with allowing the children and volunteers to salvage and reuse old or discarded materials located within the School grounds or from home and gardens.

Our Pocket Garden will remain in situ for all the Nursery and School pupils to enjoy and to celebrate such fantastic teamwork and the achievement of creating such a lovely structure that further promotes biodiversity within the School.



This will allow new activities to be undertaken and developed within the Pocket Garden in future.



Creating the garden – from design to reality



Georgetown Primary School

A Celebration of Children's Rights

Our garden is a celebration of Children's Rights and Global Goals. We chose to celebrate Children's Rights because it is our right to learn about our entitlement and we are proud to share our knowledge with others. Our garden shows ways in which we can respect our environment by reducing, reusing and recycling. By making our own compost, reducing water usage, planting for pollinators and growing our own vegetables we are showing the school and the community ways to respect the environment.



We researched and chose flowering plants such as Zinnia, Sunflowers, Marigold and Lavender that are packed with pollen and nectar to encourage all sorts of pollinators including bees and butterflies into our garden. We grew most of these from seed and are proud of how well they've grown.



Compost trousers



Rainwater collection system



Tasty herbs

We decided we would like to grow vegetables that can be used in our school meals to give an opportunity to grown and eat our own food. We planted mixed and baby leaf lettuce varieties from seed with great success, as well as parsley and basil which we hope will be used in soups and sauces. Our removable, recycled bottle, mini greenhouse is being used to grow tomato plants that can also be used in school salads. We've included peas in our garden because they are such a favourite for snacking on and provide real excitement when popping open the pods. All compost used has been peat free and we hope our homemade 'trouser compost' will be ready for repotting our tomato plants. We haven't had any issue with anything eating our plants yet but have planted marigolds alongside our lettuce as a natural way to combat this.



We were lucky to have a local joiner help provide materials and labour for our build. The main frame is made from wooden pallets, whisky barrel, multiwall shower panel and Perspex. These are all previously used materials that could have gone to landfill.

The guttering pipe and watering can collect rainwater are both second hand and donated to the school. The mini greenhouse is made from recycled plastic bottles and willow collected from the willow in the school grounds. Our hanging compost trousers are made from old jeans filled with layers of compostable materials. We think they provide a comical look to our garden! All of our planters come from our school supply and have been upcycled with beautifully designed milk bottle top bees and ladybirds and milk bottle butterflies. Our information chalk boards are recycled from broken chalk boards in the school and are removable so we can change the information on them.



We have learned a lot on our journey to create our Pocket Garden. Our understanding of why reducing, reusing and recycling, planting for pollinators and growing our own vegetables has a positive impact on our environment has increased greatly. Our knowledge about Children's Rights and Global Goals is greater meaning we can speak more confidently about them. We've learned practical skills such as how to make our own compost and planting and tending to plants.

A lovely thing we've noticed about gardening in general is what a great social activity it is. Working together to choose, plant, water and take care of our plants is such an enjoyable experience. The anticipation of waiting for plants to sprout through the soil or for the first flower to appear is so interactive and engaging. We've found that the whole school is interested in what we're doing, and it promotes great conversations about the environment.

A local joiner provided materials, helped the children fix it all together and secure our build to the ground. We were involved in working alongside the joiner to develop skills and learn how to build safely. We had hoped more of our plants grown from seed would be flowering to provide colour to our garden before the deadline, but unfortunately they weren't, so we put out a flowering plant and compost plea to the school community and very gratefully received some donations. Our plants grown from seed are still included in our Pocket Garden and we can't wait to see them all flower.

When the competition is finished our plan is to keep the Pocket Garden in position in our garden area. We would like to use it year after year to teach others about how to respect the environment and grow their own fruit and vegetables. We're sure there will be many other fabulous ideas we can incorporate into it.

We would like to highlight all of the ways we have reduced, reused and recycled as a way of respecting the environment. Hanging compost trousers, mini greenhouse and rain-water collection system are all simple and effective ways of doing this that others could use at home or in school.



Creating the garden – from design to reality





Gigha Primary School

A Coronation Celebration

My garden celebrates the coronation of King Charles III. King Charles is very important because he is our new King. I wanted to make him a lunch for the day he had his coronation, but I also wanted to look after insects we have because they are important.



Tasty things growing



Top down view



Crowning glory

I have a bee hotel and a bug palace where the insects can go. Bees are very important because they help our flowers.

Lots of the sections can be put together to make a salad stop. I have tomatoes, radishes peppers salad leaves and chives.

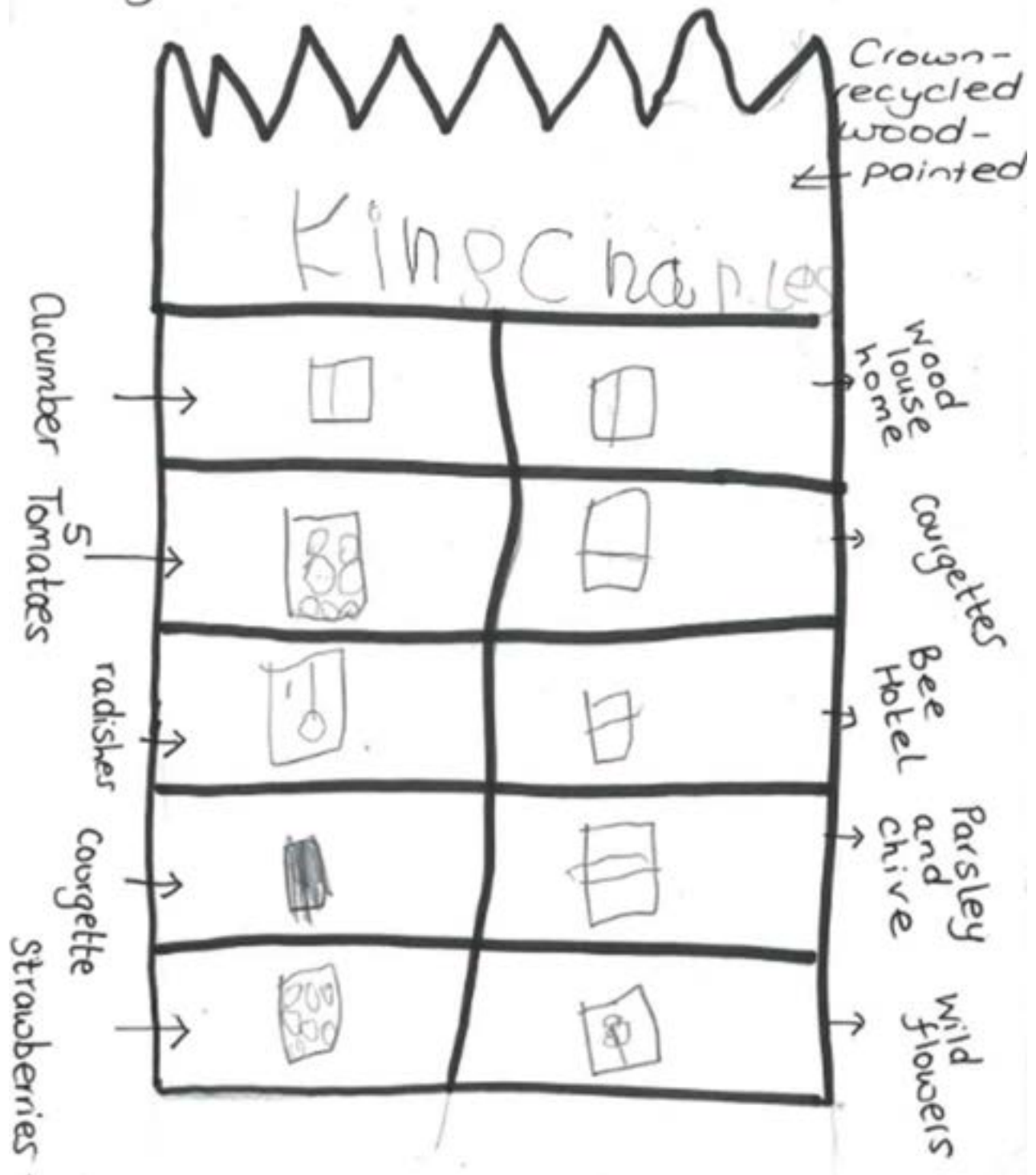
I will also add boiled eggs from my chickens at home. I reused a bookshelf that was going to go in the bin and daddy helped me to use the jigsaw to cut the crown on top, I learnt how to make the top pointy. I also learnt how to grow plants from seeds and make sure they are watered but not too much because this will make them not grow.

Well our island ranger helped us to start our food growing garden and so did the grown-up at my school . My daddy helped with cutting the wood and Tracy helped me to put the things into the bookshelf. After the competition. We will eat the salad that grows but we will keep the bookshelf as an insect house and put it in our bee wild garden. I want people to look after our island on the insects on it because it is a very special place. From Syd.

Creating the garden – from design to reality



The veg and herbs are growing in Syd-Pi (Syds) on an old bookshelf. The veg and herbs are to make a salad for the King to eat at his coronation. The bee hotel and herbs are to encourage insects to the garden.



Glenluce Nursery

The Kindness Kingdom

For our garden we are celebrating King Charles and his royal coronation. King Charles III is a committed environmentalist with a long history of campaigning for better conservation, organic farming and tackling climate change.

King Charles has been active in beekeeping for years and has long championed the cause of bees whilst he was Prince of Wales. He keeps hives across England and Scotland.



We have engineered a castle to celebrate King Charles' Coronation by using local reclaimed building materials. The castle has 2 old chimney pots and 2 drainage pipes to appear as towers. Each tower has been created for a specific and different purpose.

1. Worm Tower – We created a worm tower by drilling holes in a 6 inch drainage pipe which was donated by a parent. The tower was then situated on a corner of the Kindness Kingdom where the worms could distribute the nutrition to the other 3 sides of the Kingdom.

2. Bee Tower – The bottom of the bee tower has holes and is filled with soil to allow worms to visit the walls and different chambers of the Kingdom. The worm tower was then filled with 2-year-old horse manure and compost material e.g. food waste. We gathered worms from under the cardboard weed suppressors in the nursery garden and added the worms from our worm world that we had been studying. We are continuing to add worms as we find them. The top of the tower contains armeria maritima (sea pinks) which grow well in sand and attract bees.

3. Toad Tower – Has been created by using a reclaimed chimney pot. There is a hole at the bottom for entry of toads/frogs and filled with soil and colourful flowers at the top. A space has been created at the bottom of the toad tower with an access tunnel that is filled with leaves that we collected from our wildlife pond. The toad tower is situated next to our small mote which holds some water.

4. Flower Tower – Is constructed by using a reclaimed chimney pot and includes colourful flowers that attract bees, butterflies and birds. We have planted a "Lily of the valley" flower that was donated by a lifetime resident of Glenluce. This is because Glenluce is known as the "Valley of Light" and it was also the Queens favourite flower



Celebration flags



Hedgehog tunnel



Worm tower

5. Bug Quarters – This has been constructed and filled with wood, bark, fir cones, twigs and grass to create a warm, dry space to attract various creepy crawlies such as ladybirds, bees and woodlice. The bug quarters has been attached to the bee tower

6. The walls - Is compacted with soil, apart from one side where there is a door created for the entry of Haggis the garden hedgehog. We created a hedgehog house in the centre of the Kingdom with a frame. We developed a potato experiment to assess the best insulation in addition to the insulation board. The experiment resulted in the meadow hay keeping the potato the warmest. A small tunnel was then created for our hedgehog to cross the mote easily. The roof of the hedgehog house has been designed to run into a guttering which runs into a water feeder for the birds. The overflow of the water feeder runs into the small moat which will hydrate other wildlife.

7. The Pocket Garden includes a water collection point to attract the birds. This is created by recycled drainage pipes, house tiles and recycled plastic bottles. This will collect water coming down off the slanted tile roof, into the guttering and through a castle wall via a pipe. This is to feed the birds, keep the hedgehog house dry and cosy and the overflow of water will create the moat.

Creating the garden – from design to reality



Children chose what seeds they wanted to plant with their parents in shallow trays. They were responsible for watering their own plants in the greenhouse. Children took pride and responsibility for this part of the project. The children experienced that some plants grew quicker than others and enjoyed seeing all the different plants grow.

Children were able to identify the differentiation of the plants leaves from prickly milk thistles to the smoother cabbage leaves. Our plants were loved too much and some did not survive due to over watering and a Pink Lady Apple tree was donated to use by a member of the public who grew it from seed last year. Overall, the children's seeds have grown successfully due to the dedication and caring attention from the children.

We have had parents helping to plant the flowers from seeds and the families have donated chimney pots and posts and helped hammer them in for structural safety. The antiques centre gave us a slate for the roof of the hedgehog house and chimney pot for one of the towers. The local community reuse shop gave us a chimney pot and other materials.

We received wool from a local farmer to go into the bottom of the planters to hold the water and 2-year-old horse manure for nutrition at the bottom to fertilise the plants. We gathered mole hill soil from the school playing field to help fill our planters. We tried to grow our own apple tree from seed but it did not work therefore a woman donated an 18inch apple tree that she grew from seed to place into the centre of our kingdom. Due to a small selection of our plants not flowering we rescued colourful flowering weeds to be placed in the flower tower to make it more colourful.

The local sawmill donated us wood and the insulation board which lines the hedgehog house. One of the nursery grandparents gave us paving slabs for the floor of the hedgehog house. Whisky barrel planks were purchased at the local whisky barrel craft shop for the outside of the Kingdom. We received stones from a local company.

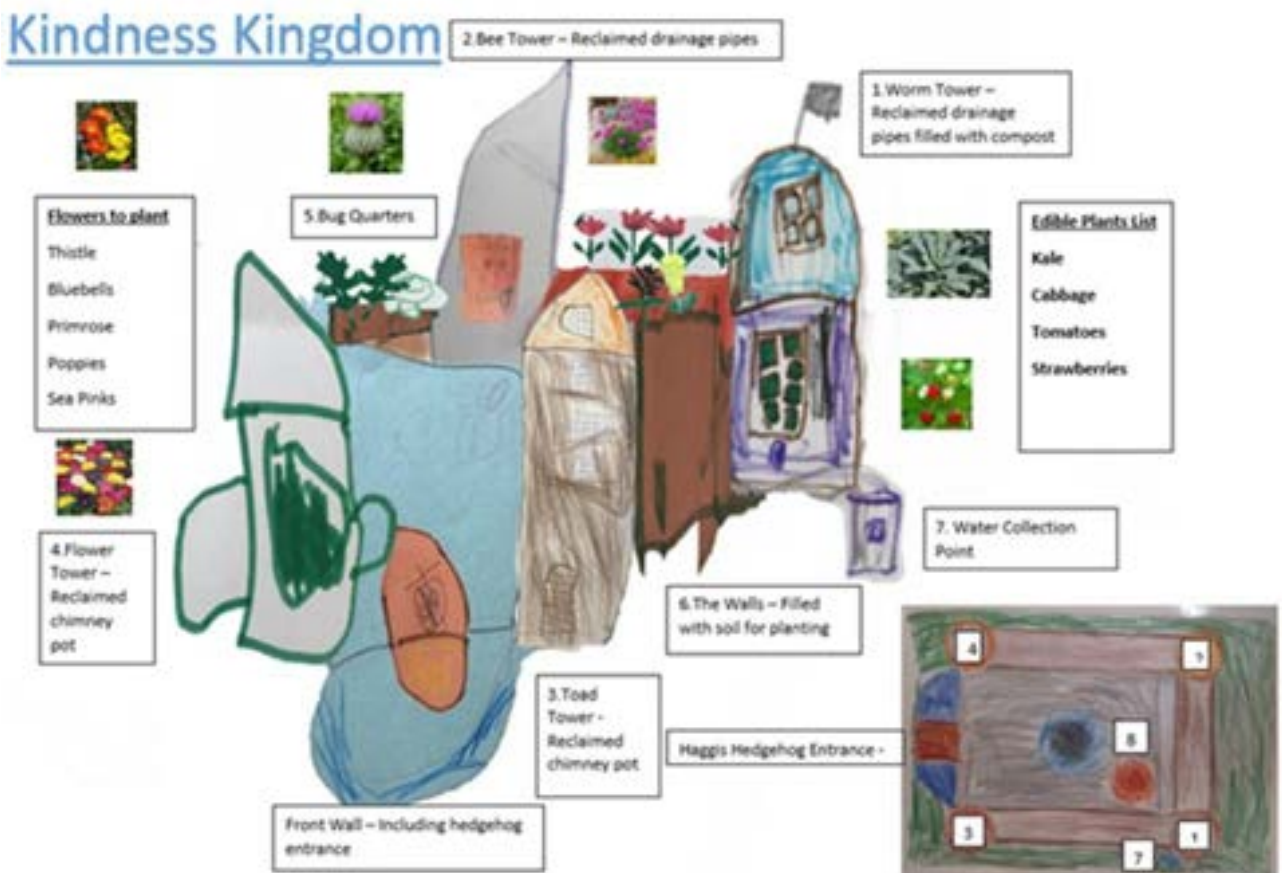
During the creation of the Kindness Kingdom we have been learning about solitary and honeybees with a special visit to the library to learn more about bees. We have been learning about the plant life cycle and we have learned about solar energy when creating the solar panel.



We did experiments to learn about water irrigation to assess the best way to supply water to our plants during long breaks. We found that a watering wick with a raised container worked well and a bottle with a small hole in the bottom of it for slow release. The buried bottles do not detract from the beauty of our kingdom and we added flags to the wick for our celebration theme. We did experiments on potatoes at the campfire to assess the best heat retention for the hedgehog house.

The children have learned about the differences of toads and frogs and the habitats they live in. For the beginning to the end of creating the kindness kingdom children have learned all about soil nutrition and worms. We added a mystery plant growing on cork in the garden and have been amazed at the resilience of plants.

After the competition is over the Kindness Kingdom will be a permanent feature in our marvellous meadow and the nursery will continue to use the edible plants for snack and to feed the guinea pigs. Each year a tree will be transferred to the hill and another fruit tree will replace it as children move on to Primary 1. The apple tree is significant to Glenluce Nursery as it is prominent in our class charter.





Glenmanor Primary School

Día de Muertos (Day of the Dead), Mexico

Glenmanor's Pocket Garden entry celebrates Mexico's Day of the Dead, *Día de Muertos*. This theme was chosen because it would provide opportunity for bright colours along with interesting features that could be added to the garden to make it unique.



Our garden is wildlife friendly as it provides flowers for bees and a bug hotel for insects and bugs to create a habitat. In our garden we have the following that is edible: strawberries, peas, thyme, sage, mint, chillies, strawberries, tomatoes and parsley.

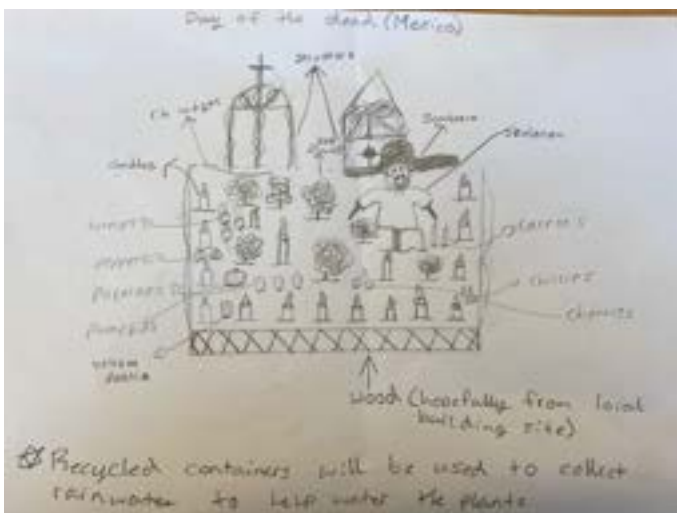
We tried to reuse as many materials as possible when creating our garden. Children and staff members brought in plant pots from home to be recycled and reused. The lights that are included are Christmas lights that were on a tree in our school garden.

The wood to build the trellis, structure was donated by a grandparent who has a building company and a parent helper very kindly built the structure for us. We received plant donations from staff (strawberries, lavender) and family members (mint) and reused some plants that were in the school garden already.

Our garden includes the following plants: Dahlias, lavender, giant sunflowers, sweet peas, strawberries, tomatoes, mint, pansies, chilies, peas and the herbs; sage, oregano and curled parsley.



Now that our garden is complete we will continue to look after it as there are still plants that are not ready to be harvested or finished growing/flowering. It will also be able to be enjoyed by other classes and staff members in the school. Hopefully other classes will be inspired to enter and build their own Pocket Garden next year.



We learned a lot growing and building this garden, the children that were involved thoroughly enjoyed it and even asked if we can continue the garden club because it was so much fun!

They know how to replant seedlings independently and provide support for taller plants to stop them falling over!

Due to the frosty weather at the start of process it delayed our growing slightly and we tried to utilize our school poly tunnel as much as possible to help nurture the plants.

The children came up with great ideas for the Pocket Garden such as making the sugar skull wind chimes and decorating the pots to make them more attractive looking. It was great to see how it developed over the short period of time and parents even commented that their children were wanting to grow flowers and vegetables at home. It has also been lovely to see how other children and staff members that were out in the garden enjoyed seeing its progress.

Creating the garden – from design to reality





Gorebridge Primary School

Gorebridge Pocket Garden

Gorebridge Pocket Garden reflects our celebrations of all things Scottish, nature related and the fact that it is the first year of our Eco Green- Flag journey.

During this first year, we have celebrated by coming together after the Covid-19 pandemic through increasing health and well-being support, celebrated King Charles' Coronation, explored Scottish myth (unicorns), succeeded in being selected as a winning entry for Eco-Schools Pocket Garden competition, explored the diversity of our garden, started to plant fruit and vegetable seeds from scratch, held our first Healthy Café, introduced a nurturing landscape in our garden and also received the good news that we have been awarded our very First Eco Green Flag!



Cosy hideaway

Lots to do round the back

Messages from the children

Gorebridge Pocket Garden has encouraged children's active enthusiasm in helping children to take lead in looking after their environment, reducing, re-using and recycling not only boxes, packages, cups, wood but also food items too, including planting from fruit seeds that they had for snack/lunch, expressing their interest in sowing other seeds for both vegetable and fruit plants to have at snack, to be included in their One Planet Picnic (September) once they have grown and taking ownership for the care of plants both indoors and outdoors.

They have very much enjoyed the opportunity this year to go one step further in using our new I-pads to explore the outdoors and also to use the internet to fact-find information in answer to questions that they may have, with support from adults. The older children have used their STEM skills to resource, problem solve and produce models from recycled materials that replicate the various structures, sheds and planters that are part of their playground/garden. Requesting a variety of plants, it was great to see the children exploring and sharing their findings with both staff and each other. Staff also provided the children with necessary tools so they could examine creatures closely, by using magnifying glasses, torches and the I-pads that have helped to increase their wonder and curiosity around nature.



The children voted for different flowering plants, making their garden inviting to bees and butterflies, asked for fruit, vegetables and also little bushes to make their garden a diverse and interesting place to explore and seek out hidey-places for both themselves and 'bugs' (mini-beasts).

The children's STEM skills were further tested when considering our growing roof, trying to find out exactly how the rainwater gets carried from falling onto the roof and then ending up in tanks beneath the school, before being recycled to use as flush-water for the toilets. In addition to this, some of the children enjoyed making bird-boxes, a bug-hotel, decorated birds and made nests to add to the garden design to signify the care and protection afforded to the wildlife creatures that visit their garden.

Our garden has taken shape nicely, as the children have taken forth their enquiry on how food can make our bodies healthier, which foods we should/should not eat/drink and their benefits to be had. Looking at Scottish facts, the children were surprised to learn that 'Unicorns' are Scotland's national animal! Unicorn a firm favourite was added to the Pocket Garden by special request.



Cosy hideaway



Lots to do round the back



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Garden design





Isobel Mair School

Class Arran's sensory wildlife garden

Our garden celebrates and encourages nature into our playground. It also celebrates using recycled and upcycled materials. The entire cost of our garden was £11 as we reused and recycled all the materials to build the garden structure and our local Waitrose donated soil and herbs. We grew our own peas and potatoes.

This subject was chosen as we have been learning about living things and what they need to grow and thrive. David is also part of the Eco committee so recycling and looking after wildlife is important to our class.



Books to read

Tasty food for birds

Gardening tools handy

Our garden is wildlife friendly as it has bird feeders, a bug hotel and herbs which encourage bees and insects to visit.

All of the plants in our garden are edible. This is very important to our design as one of the young people will put everything into their mouth. Some of the young people in class have limited diets so it has been lovely for them to experience new smells and tastes and grow their own vegetables.

The garden is designed to encourage nature and also to be a sensory experience for the young people. The plants are highly fragranced and safe to eat. The garden has board maker symbols to indicate where the gardening tools are. There is also a space to store books, so we are able to read outside and enjoy our garden.

The main structure of our garden was made from a pallet crate and all of the wood was recycled from an old playhouse. The only thing we had to buy was the trellis to grow the peas up.



As a class we have learned about teamwork, we learned about the importance of recycling and reusing materials. One of our class members is part of the Eco Schools committee and the theme of upcycling and reusing materials is something we all feel passionate about.

We were very lucky to have a link with our local Waitrose who provided the soil and herbs. Also, our janitor Joe helped to build the structure to hold the plants. Our garden will remain in our playground for everyone to enjoy. We may turn it into a wildflower garden if the herbs outgrow the planter.

[Creating the garden – from design to reality](#)



Kinneil Primary School

Bo'ness Fair Day 2023

Our garden celebrates the Bo'ness Fair Day which became an annual tradition in 1897. The fair has a special place in our hearts as it brings the community together to celebrate the people of Bo'ness. We chose to create this garden as we feel that the Fair is a big part of our lives and we enjoy being together as a community each year.





Repurposed bottles



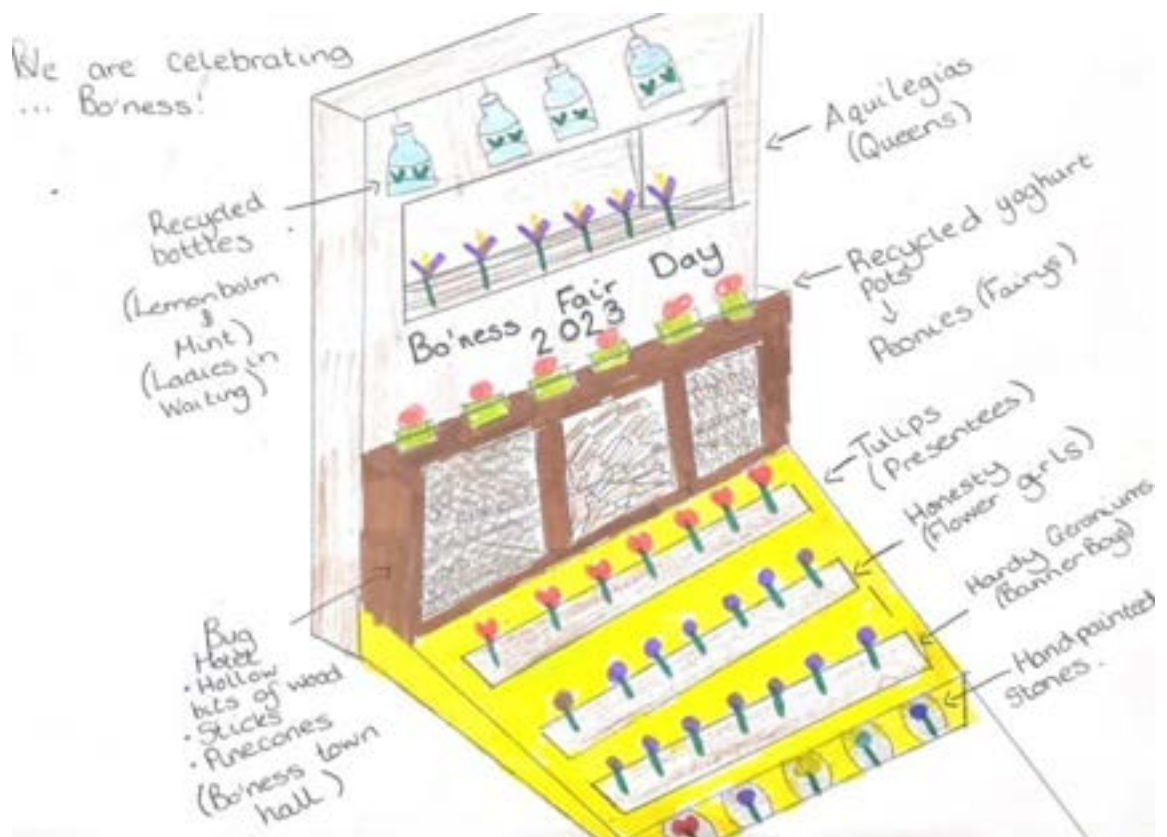
Insect hideaway



Colourful flowers

As part of our garden we planted Rosemary and Mint which we will be able to use in the STEM area, where we have the opportunity to cook and bake different recipes. We reused plastic bottles and yoghurt pots and turned them into plant pots. We used pieces of wood and palettes that people from the town donated. We contacted Bloomin Bo'ness who were willing to donate tarpaulin for our garden. All of our plants were donated by parents from the school and local businesses. Our garden will stay in the playground where all of the pupils and teachers can enjoy it, each class will take turns to water the garden. We enjoyed working as a team and we had the opportunity to use drills and saws when building the garden.

Each row of flowers represents a role taken as part of Fair Day. The Petunias represent the Flower Girls, the Bizzie Lizzies represent the Queen, the Snap Dragons represent the Presentees, the Pegonias represent the Fairies and the Marigolds represent the Banner boys. The bug hotel at the back represents the town hall where all of the school's showcase their dances and where the queen sits.





Linnvale Primary School

My New Life

Our garden celebrates Scotland being a welcoming and safe place for people leaving the threat of war to live. Our school was fortunate to receive many children from the first flight of Syrian refugees, this has transformed our school as our pupils and parents welcomed our new families, and our new families soon became involved in school life by joining family cooking classes as well as helping with our school gardens.

This subject was poignant to our entrant Eela as her family left their home in Kurdistan and moved away in order to stay safe. They arrived in Scotland in 2016 from Erbil and settled in Clydebank. As the theme was 'celebration', Eela wanted to celebrate the chance of happiness and safety that her family got when they moved here.



Eela's garden design incorporates two old suitcases, which represent them packing up their lives. The cases were going to be thrown out, but instead the children punctured holes in the base of the them for drainage and then they filled them with peat free compost and some of the compost from the school compost heap! They surrounded the pallet with wood from a pallet which they sawed up and screwed together to make a frame and they used part of a piece of conservatory roofing for the clapperboard backdrop. We had help constructing that piece of the design from the staff and pupils at Choices School in Balloch who have a fantastic workshop and had offered their help in February to our school and we were glad of their help and expertise!



Visiting bee



Moments of freedom



Beautiful colours

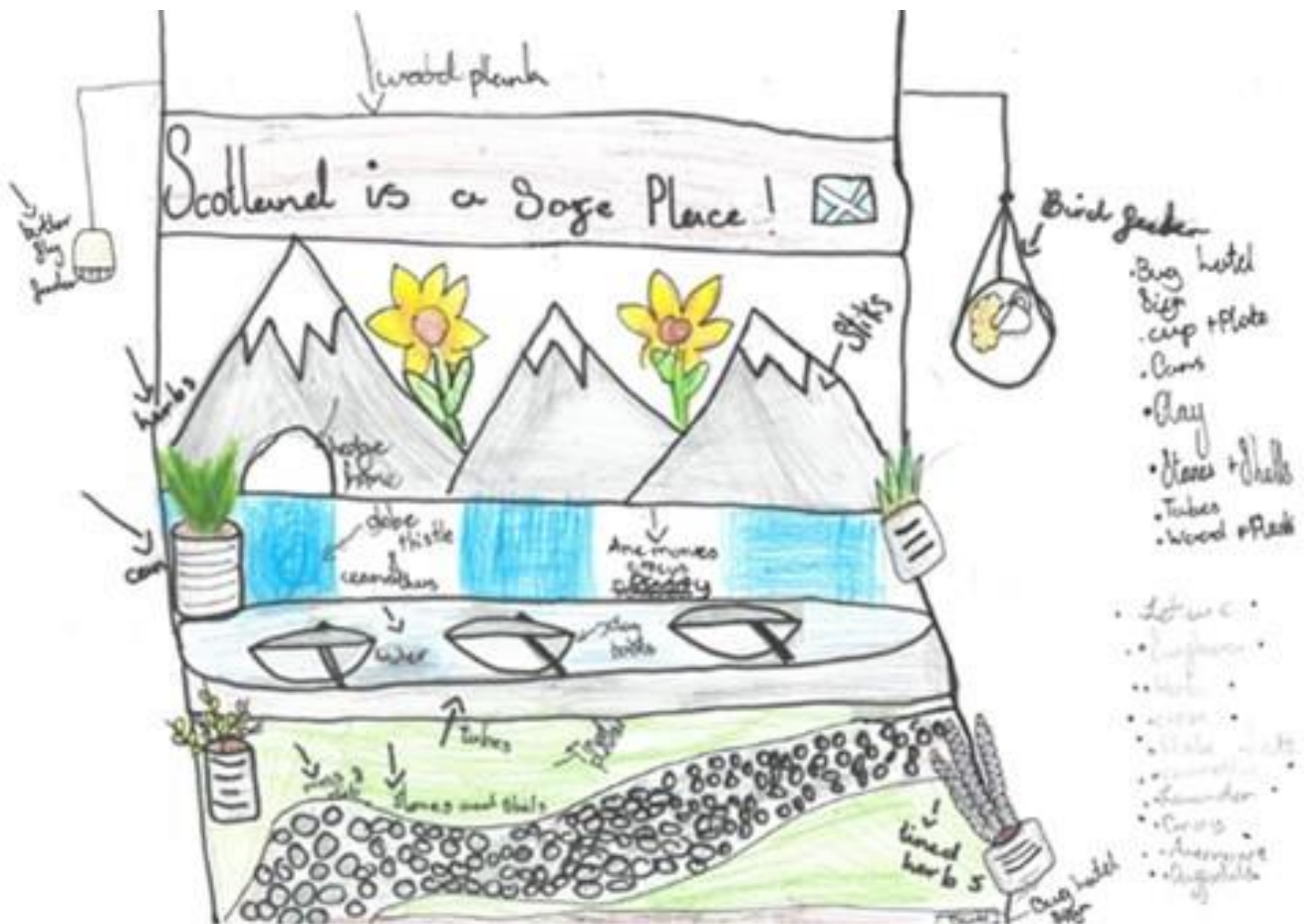
In the cases, we planted edible herbs and plants such as chives, thyme, parsley, rosemary, sage, nasturtium, basil and pansies! The chives self-seeded from last year's Pocket Garden entry and one of the thyme was from that too. Sadly, our basil has not germinated. We have also planted marigolds (which were grown from seed), lithodora (another plant salvaged and saved from last year), antirrhinum, lavender, a dahlia, a sunflower grown from seed and a honeysuckle (which was gifted to us by one of the teachers.) A parent donated the antirrhinums, lavender and dahlia.



Using the gaps in the pallet we have created an insect zone around the surround of the garden by filling in the gaps of the pallet with tree cookies, old tree bark, leaves, grass, tree cookies with holes bored in them by pupils, rocks and cardboard pots. Primary 5 searched the grounds and found lots of natural materials to add to here to provide food and shelter for the mini beasts. We were thrilled to be able to reuse so many plants as well as one of the pallets from last year. Two of our flags were made by cutting up old t-shirts while the other was repurposed from Scottish Day.

This project has involved many classes: P5 sowed and grew the marigolds, P6 designed and constructed the garden; P6/7 created the beautifully decorated garden pots (Made from catering sized food tins kindly saved by our school catering staff) and P7 have been busy watering the garden and added some planting too. The gardening pots have designs of mountains showing depicting Scotland's beautiful wild spaces and flowers to show the diversity of natural wildflowers. Some aspects of our completed design, such as the pots and bug home came from another entry and it had been recommended in our feedback that we should try to incorporate some elements from it.

The three flags represent where Eela and her family has lived and the clapperboard symbolizes the film, 'Moments of Freedom' which her mum was involved in which told of the Kurdish and Syrian families adjusting to life in the Scotland. Her mum wrote a poem in Arabic and English telling of her thoughts and emotions of her new life. Eela wanted to include this in her garden as she was exceptionally proud of what her mother achieved, and this is what influenced her design. She chose plants and vibrant flowers which she felt represented her homeland.







Musselburgh Burgh Primary School

Our Musselburgh Garden

Our garden celebrates the town of Musselburgh. We chose to celebrate Musselburgh as the children alongside their friends and adults could explore and learn more about their hometown, past and present. We have used plants and vegetables with the colour palette of blue, white and yellow as these colours are associated with Musselburgh.



Our garden has many variety of flowers and vegetables to attract our other learning interest mini beasts! We have planted Lavender, Alliums, Limnantes, Marigolds, Climbing blue Morning Glory, Lobelia, Impatiens and Pelargoniums. Our edible plantings are Musselburgh Leeks, Courgette, French beans, Runner beans, Nasturtiums, Borage and Basil.

We have a small water feature portraying Fisherrow harbour and harbour wall which wildlife may use as a watering hole and the harbour wall as a place to hide and shade from dangers. We also placed driftwood in between the plantings to create homes for our mini visitors.

The base of the garden is a reclaimed standard pallet that we added edging to. The upright was reused from another project. The fishing net covering the upright, was found washed up on a local beach and the lobster creel we got from a fisherman as it was damaged and so we were able repurpose it.

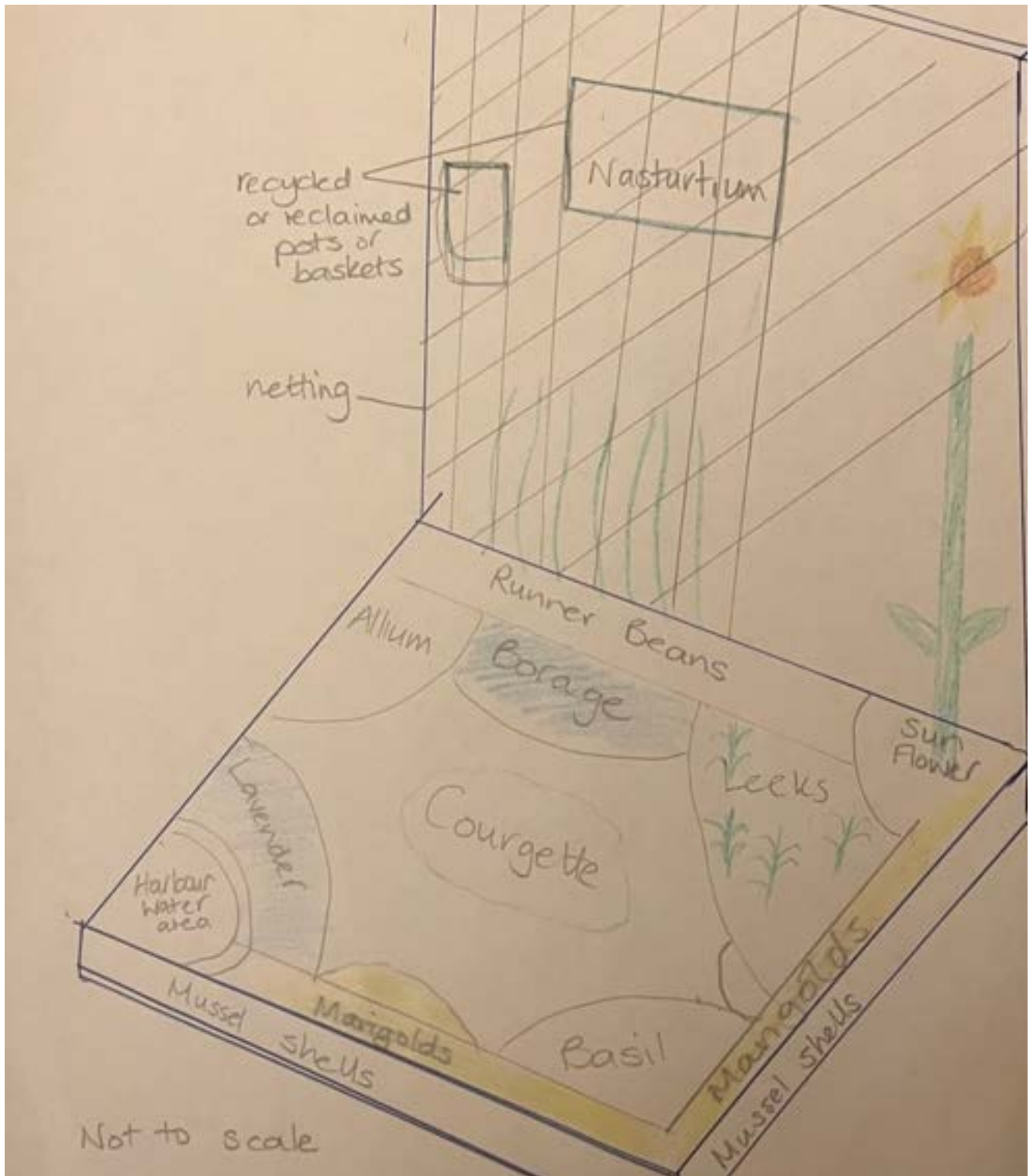


The children have had lots of learning spanning many different curricular areas. They were challenged to go on a treasure hunt to collect Mussel shells, driftwood, pebbles and any other interesting treasure they could find for our garden as you can see they did well! We have learned that plants grow from seeds and bulbs, that roots grow down and shoots grow up. We practiced naming the basic parts of plants and learning that plants need sunshine and water to grow. We are currently learning that insects enjoy plants too.

The blue and white bunting that is flying was recycled from our King Charles III Coronation Celebration as these are the colours of our Honest Toun Association and we added yellow flags to the blue representing the Fisherrow community. We have a picture displaying our fishing heritage and were gifted a miniature lobster creel from one of our Fisherrow families. We added golf balls to our display as a child recalled the golf ball structure at the east end of the town. Musselburgh as well as fishing heritage is also known for the Cradle of golf.

We were fortunate to have people who could help us build the basic structure so that we could then be creative with our treasure hunt finds, observation paintings and our practical gardening skills. We also had plant donations from our wider local community, who we would like to thank for their help. We are planning to nurture and continue to learn from our garden and share our learning with our adults when we hold a Garden party as part of our transition to Primary 1.

Garden design



Creating the garden – from design to reality





Newmains Primary School

Flower Birthday Party

Our Garden celebrates a birthday. The children discussed what a celebration means to them and overwhelmingly it meant a birthday and of course with that a birthday party. Our garden shows the various aspects that may be included in a birthday party, from the cake to the piñata, from the food to the balloons.

Our Garden not only celebrates a birthday, but it also celebrates the love that the children have of being outdoors, their interest in watching things grow and their desire to help the environment. It celebrates the fact that the children originally thought the school grounds to be dark and gloomy but now with the beautiful flowers and the excitement of the forthcoming harvest, it's bright and vibrant, turning everyone's sad faces into smiles.



Our garden is full of bright flowers which will attract the bees and butterflies. Following some research, the children decided that they would quite like to see a Chocolate Mining Bee and a Peacock Butterfly visit their garden.

Our garden has many edible items as no party is complete without some party food. There are potatoes to be turned into chips and some herbs are growing at the side which can be used to add extra flavour. There are also strawberries and rhubarb which will be turned into a delicious dessert for the party.



Repurposed bottles



Growing in tyres



Colourful flowers

Our garden is made from many recycled materials. The pallet at the back, helping to create the shape, came with the compost delivery on it. The piñata and the balloons are made from milk bottles and are tied to the pallet with cable ties and the birthday cake is painted tyres. To decorate the cake, more milk bottles containing flowers were placed around the edges. Milk bottle tops were strung together to add some extra bunting.

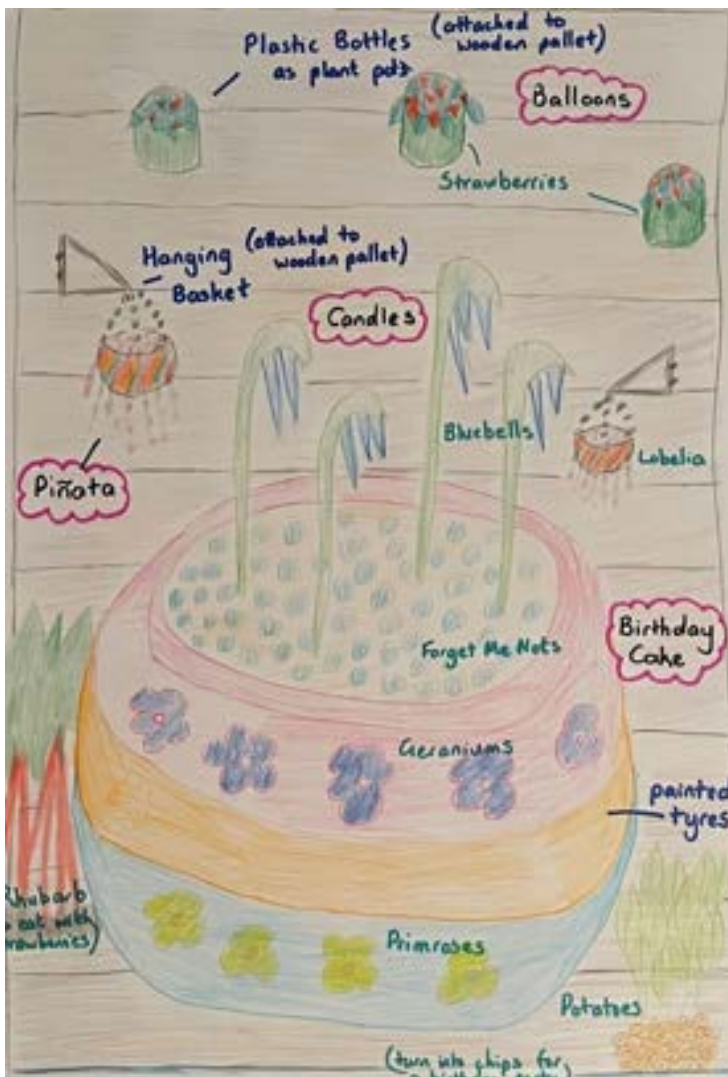


Although we had a plan, we had to improvise along the way. The plan was to have plants growing out the side of the tyres/cake, but the children were unable to make the holes, so we adapted and placed the plants around the edge of the cake.

We had originally planned for bluebells to simulate the candles on the cake, but we soon realised that they probably would be passed by the time we came to take photographs and with the added problem of squirrels and foxes digging up the bulbs we decided to use dianthus instead. We also learnt that weeding is a necessity and part of every gardening trip.

Members of the community came along to offer their assistance, helping with the weeding and offering the children some advice. We received donations of strawberry plants from a former parent and the Parent Council also lent their support by providing plants from their own gardens. The staff organised the collection of the milk bottles.

Once the competition is over, the Pocket Garden will be tended to. The strawberries and potatoes will be harvested but the rhubarb will be there for a few years until it is ready. The bluebell bulbs are buried deep, so hopefully they will appear next year and many of the plants are perennials so should come year on year.



The children really enjoyed creating this Pocket Garden. It was their ideas from conception to finished project. They worked on it in all weathers but couldn't wait until it was time to plant. (They weren't so keen on the weeding!!!)

As the project reached the end, the children's smiles got bigger and bigger – they can't wait to share this with their family and friends, as well as entering it into the competition.

The children plan to have a birthday party for the Pocket Garden in the coming weeks.

The strawberries will produce fruit for future years and cuttings can be taken from the trailers and planted elsewhere within the school grounds.

Some of the potatoes will be kept, producing seed potatoes for next year.





The Nicholson Institute

Hebridean Celtic Festival Celebration Garden

Our garden is a celebration of our local Hebridean Celtic Festival. We decided to celebrate the festival as it promotes the culture and heritage of our island, through music that we love listening too. We wanted to make a garden that celebrated the fun and excitement that the festival brings to our island every summer.



Instruments ready



A tune to play



Beautiful colours

Our garden is Wildlife friendly, and we have planted wildflowers to attract bees. The wildflowers have been planted to represent the circus and all the bright colours of The Hebridean Celtic Festival. We also used stones to represent the sea and to provide a cool, damp environment for insects to live in.

We have three edible parts in our garden. We planted lettuce to represent the castle green and planted herbs which we made into festival bunting. We also planted potatoes in a drum to represent the music.

We used wooden pallets and recycled pots and instruments in our garden. We also used old sheet music to decorate our garden.



We learned all about planning and designing a garden. We also learned about different plants and how they would grow. We found out how important it was to have a polycrub to grow things in time for May on the island and the weather was not always in our favour! We also found out about the local wildlife and spent time out in the community learning about different plants that grow in our local area.

We were very fortunate to receive a donation of seeds and plant pots from our local garden centre Maybury Gardens. We receive pallets for our garden from Woody's express. We would like to kindly thank both local businesses for supporting us with our project. We would also like to thank Mrs Macdonald for donating plants to us when we needed more colour added to our garden. Finally, we would like to thank Wendy Henderson from Cove in Bloom and Cove Woodland Trust for mentoring us with our project.

Now that our garden is complete, we are looking for recipes so we can use the things we have grown. We have a garden party in our school to celebrate the end of term so we will let people come and explore our garden. Finally, the bottom pallet will be kept and maintained to encourage wildlife in our sensory garden.

Our pupils worked very hard to develop our Pocket Garden and managed to complete their SQA National 2 in Science and the Environment based on all the work they have done. We have really enjoyed being part of the project and can't wait to spend time looking at everyone's designs!

Garden Design



Creating the garden – from design to reality





Pitreavie Playgroup

Coronation Pocket Garden

Pitreavie Playgroup is a small playgroup located in Pitreavie Playing fields, Dunfermline, where sixteen children, aged between 2 years and 5 years old attend throughout the week.

A planter was built from recycled pallets so the children can enter the Keep Scotland Beautiful Pocket Garden competition. Parents and children have worked together with staff to design a garden themed around the Coronation celebration in the UK.

The children celebrated the Queen's Jubilee in June 2022 and learnt more about the Monarch and traditions during the national period of mourning for the Queen. Everyone was very excited when the King's helicopter landed near the Playgroup when he visited Dunfermline.





The River Thames



Lots of smiley faces



Tower bridge

In keeping with the UK theme it was decided to use red, blue and white flowering plants to represent the British flag in one section of the garden. Plants, symbols and crests that represent all four nations were also be incorporated into the design.

- Scotland: Heather, Sea Holly, Eryngium, to represent the thistle, Unicorn, Bluebells
- England: Rose, lion
- Wales: Leek, dragon
- Ireland: Shamrock represented by Trifolium Beauty, hare

The children talked about the King living in a castle and that he will travel to his Coronation in a carriage pulled by horses through the Royal Park. The King is a keen gardener, so he has a vegetable patch next to his castle.

Dunfermline has recently become a city and the Peacocks in Pittencrieff Park have freedom of the city so the children wanted to add this to the garden. We have a toy Peacock which will be in the Royal Park along with Peacock feathers from the birds in Pittencrieff Park along with a rabbit and squirrel.



The Royal Park has an herb border and which will be fed to our Playgroup rabbit, Jasmine. The Castle is represented by a log with a crown on the top and there is a gravel path that leads through the garden with the national animals dotted about. Leeks form an avenue leading through the park. Canons, made from painted bamboo cuttings from our garden and repurposed buttons, sit outside the castle and we have knights to stand guard. The crowd is made from lollypop sticks and have the children's pictures on them.

One area of the planter is set higher than the rest and it is the King's vegetable garden. The children will be able to harvest the plants later in the year and have them for snack. It will also include plants for Jasmine to eat.

Throughout the planter there London landmarks and features: - Big Ben with Paddington Bear on top, a telephone box, a post box and a bus crossing London Bridge which acts as a bug hotel. Recycled bottles were used to make the River Thames which is filled from our water butt and helps to water the garden. There is a flag and bunting as well as each country's crest and the Playgroup logo put round the edges of the planter.



We would like to thank Suzi Ross, Peafowl Warden, Debi from Duloch in Bloom and local businesses and charity shops that have provided resources for use in the garden. Staff would like to thank the families who were instrumental in designing and creating our Pocket Garden. They have found the project has brought them together and they have formed a good friendship. The project has supported their wellbeing and mental health and they have felt more involved in the life of the Playgroup.

The planter is in our front garden so it benefits not only the Playgroup families but also the local community is able to enjoy our display. The children play with the props that appear in the garden and look forward to harvesting the plants.

Creating the garden – from design to reality



Ralston Primary School

Celebration of Learning

Our garden celebrates learning within our school. We wanted to educate pupils and parents about what we could grow in our school grounds and the skills involved in creating a garden. We have sited the garden within our new Reading Garden, where pupils can sit quietly during break times.



Our garden (designed by one of our Garden Crew) is a miniature reproduction of our school and school grounds. On the front of our miniature school is a bug hotel and our garden also contains a miniature pond. The dwarf broad beans represent the trees in the playground.

All the materials used to make our garden were reused. We used pallets, reclaimed wood and an old storage tray to make the pond. Our plants were grown mainly from seed or cuttings by the gardening crew. A few were gifted from the local community who are keen to encourage young people with their gardening projects.



School bug house



Repurposed pond



School value pebbles

Our garden aims to show pupils and parents what edible plants can be grown in a small space. We attempted to create an A to Z (almost) of edible and wildlife friendly plants and made labels from reclaimed slate to identify the plants to people passing by and to children sitting in the Reading Garden.

We have in our mini allotment school garden: alliums, beans, calendula, chard, chives, dill, foxglove, fennel, garlic, lavender, lettuce, mint, mustard, nasturtium, onions, parsley, peas, radish, rosemary, strawberries, and thyme.

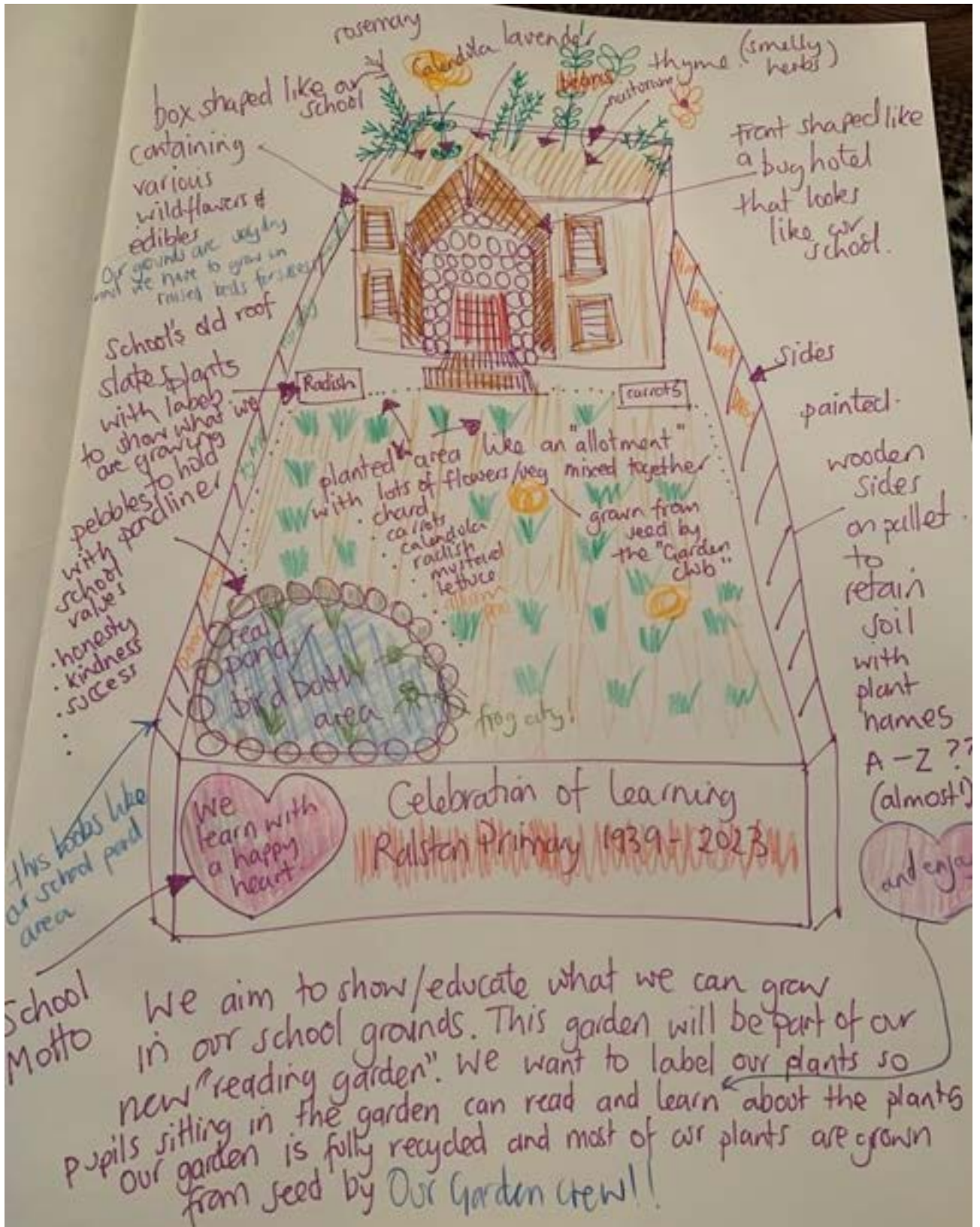


We learned how to design, measure and saw wood to build, work together, sow seeds, and care for plants. On the side of the garden we wrote some of the skills we learned so that pupils can read the words while looking at the garden.

When the competition is finished, our garden will continue to grow and we will eat the produce. We will use it as a growing space for years to come.

The Garden Crew are extremely proud of this garden.

Garden design

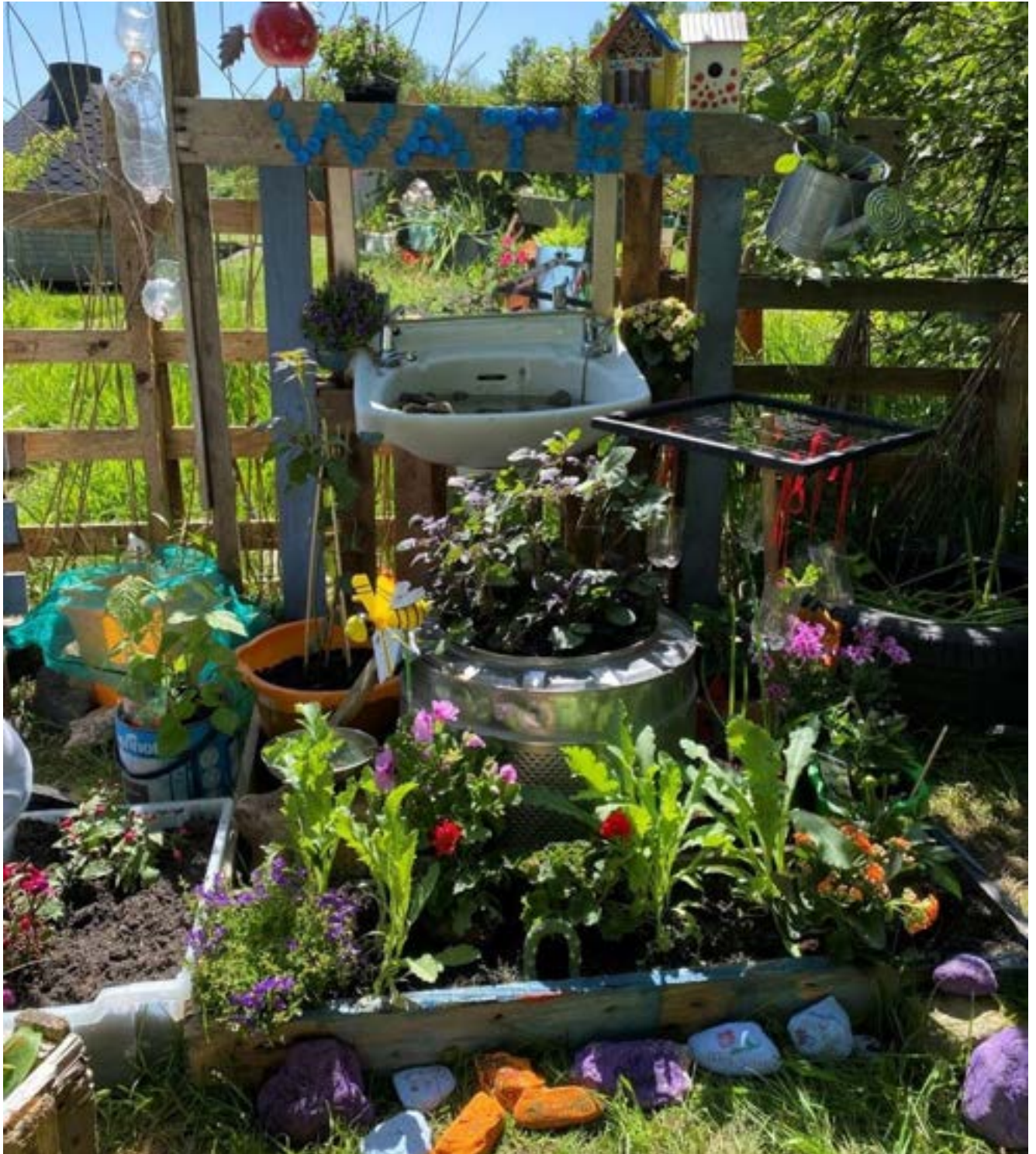




Rosneath Primary School

Entry 1: 'Water' Pocket Garden

Living on the Rosneath Peninsula, children wanted to celebrate water. Together we discussed our ideas and then drew our plans for the Pocket Garden, bringing everything together for the final design. The children were all very eager to be fully involved in every aspect of the garden build. From sawing the wooden pallets in order to create our garden frame to building a bench to sit and enjoy the garden once completed.



We collected as many items relating to water which we could upcycle. A washing machine drum for the potatoes. A sink for a bird bath. Wellington boots for our leeks and spring onions. Buckets as planters and water bottle tops for our sign. A watering can for the strawberries and empty drinks bottles to capture rainwater. A pot lid became a bee bath and an old basin was used as a frog pond.

There were challenges and the children showed resilience. A variety of our plants were grown from seed and looked after in our classroom greenhouse. Unfortunately we all learned a tough lesson when we moved our plants outdoors. We arrived on a Monday to see our sweet peas and carrots had been munched by the slugs.

Well, we did want to invite the wildlife to our garden! Not deterred, together we researched 'friendly' deterrents such as eggshells and decided to plant raspberries. We also have visiting deer which we love to see come to our school grounds however this means our Garden is within a fenced area as they have also enjoyed our tulips.

Some of the vegetables and flowers we have been growing will go into our community garden.

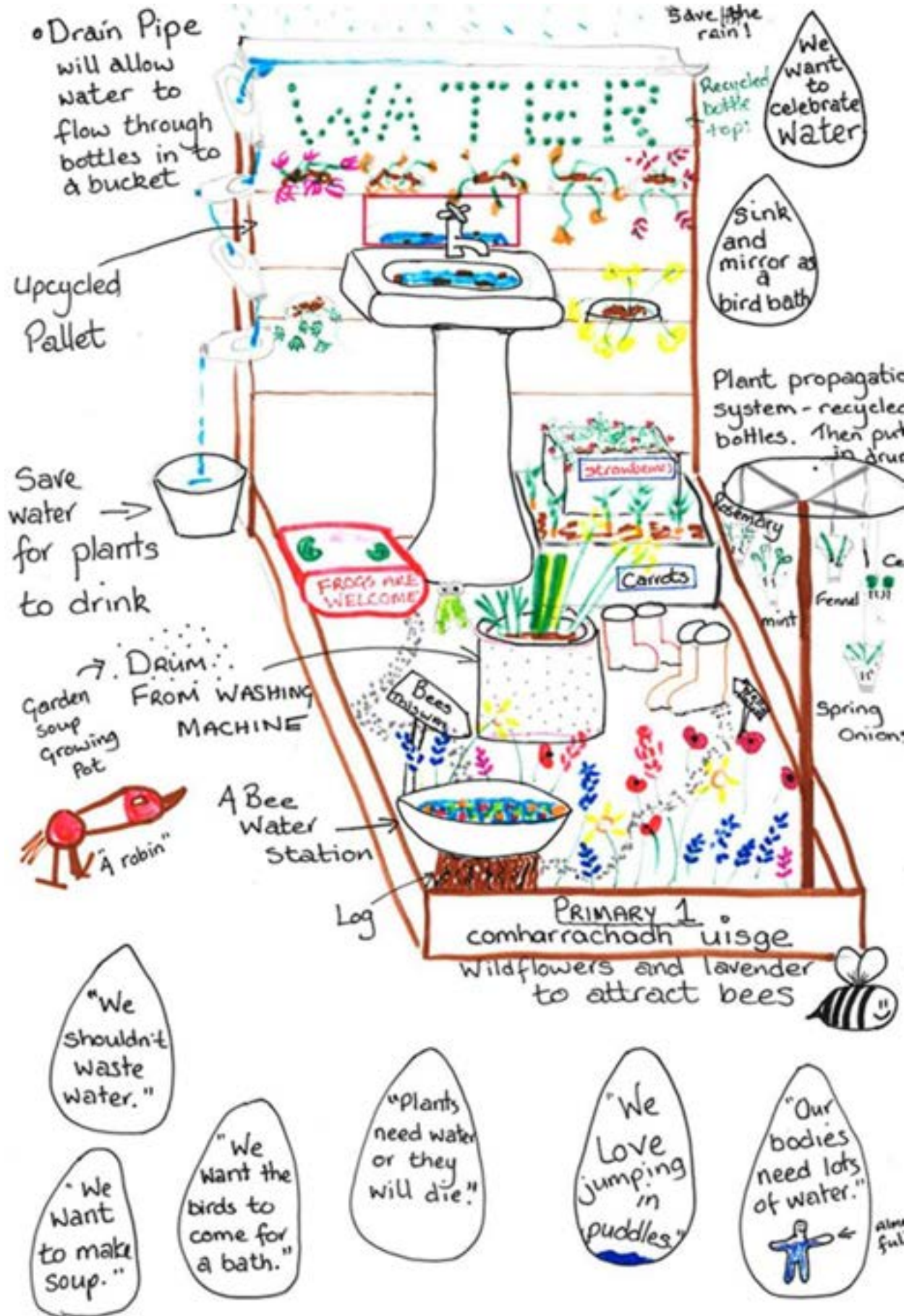
This experience has allowed children to develop new skills and for some, a love of gardening and others, thoughts of working with wildlife and woodwork. There is no stopping the children now. We have also upcycled more pallets and created a new compost bin and will recycle for our whole school, using the compost for our garden next year.

We have been enjoying sitting in the garden, listening to the bird song and watching as the bees and bugs begin to visit the many different areas we have created.

We look forward to making potato and leek soup and eating yummy raspberries and strawberries.



Time to relax and enjoy the Pocket Garden with a good book



Creating the garden – from design to reality



Recycled sink



Strawberries in the old watering can



Roots on rosemary cutting growing in propagator



Filling bird bath with stones



Spring Onion came from throw away cuttings



Foliage are heavily scented to attract pollinators



New skills



We are working
in the pocket
garden.

The Hard work began to create our Pocket Garden



Recycling all things related to water

Rosneath Primary School

Entry 2: Sakura-Under the Blossom Tree

Our Garden celebrates new life and new beginnings along with the Japanese Blossom Festival. P4/5 chose this theme as they have been studying Japan and were very enthusiastic about the culture and festivals. We have a much beloved Cherry Blossom tree in the school grounds which we enjoy each year and the children wanted to have their own Blossom Festival to celebrate its beauty. We wanted to create our Pocket Garden beside the tree and grow the garden as part of our celebration.



Bee bath



Bath filled with plants



Clematis blooms

Our garden has a fabulous bug hotel behind the bath on the shady side, a bee bath in the centre, a bird bath which is fed with fresh water from our wooden gutter on one side of the bath. Beautiful tea-cup bird feeders are hanging from the willow frame. These are inspired by the Japanese Tea Ceremonies traditionally had under the blossom trees during Hanami (blossom viewing).

There is a tiny coconut shell bird house hanging up in the willow hoop. We have planted several flowering plants to attract pollinators including lavender, borage, chamomile, mint, thyme, clematis and strawberries.

Edible parts of the garden are strawberries, peas, nasturtiums, potatoes, rhubarb, thyme, rosemary, mint, chamomile, white and blue borage, and milk thistle.

Our most impressive reused feature is the claw foot bath-tub which is so beautifully painted by P4/5 children. They chose to depict a sunset scene with the silhouette of a Japanese crane and a cherry blossom branch. It looks stunning as the focal point. We have used old tea-cups as bird feeders, a tea-pot as a planter, recycled plastic bottles as hanging strawberry planters, an old tin bucket as a potato planter, old enamel camping bowls for the bird and bee bath and we used an old pallet to make a bench to sit and enjoy garden.



While creating the garden we learned about growing from seed, some trial and error! We learned what our plants need to grow and thrive. Some children learned woodworking skills as they made the wooden rakes for the sand in the Zen garden. We all learned to work together as a team, share our ideas and encourage one another as we worked together; from the initial design and planning stage, to building and creating the final product.

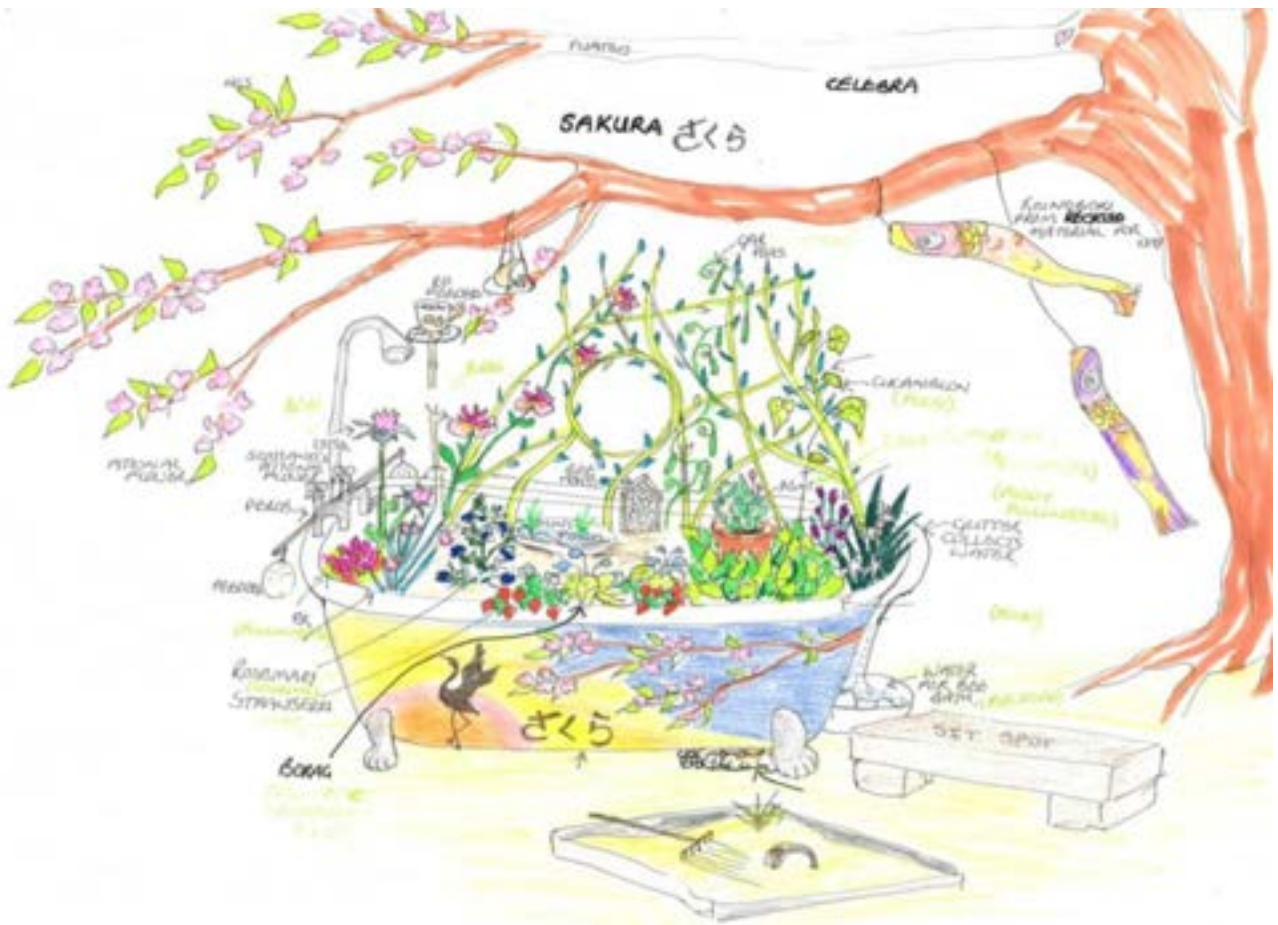
A favourite part for many of the children is the wooden gutter collecting water for the bird bath. They had great fun planning the angle of the wood and position of the bird bath and testing the run with marbles first then water. Some children particularly like the bench to sit on and the mindful act of raking sand in the Zen garden.

After the competition has ended our garden will grow and thrive as we care for the plants, enjoy the harvest and ensure the wildlife habitats are maintained.

When the blossom tree was in full show the children planned and enjoyed their own festival which involved making a Sakura syrup drink made from the petals which was consumed as part of a gratitude ceremony.



They also baked cherry blossom shortbread and played traditional Japanese games. We hung our Japanese fish which we made from reusing plastic bags and bottles and worked a little on our Pocket Garden as part of the fun.



Skypoint School

Skypoint Super Global Garden

Our garden this year celebrates our school and young peoples' awards, we chose this as we are very proud of all our achievements.



Over the last year we have achieved the following awards : Plastic free Schools, Climate Ready Classroom Training, Rights Respecting Silver Award (applied for), Fairtrade, WWF Climate Hero, RHET Festival of Farming , RHS School Gardening, I Am Me Ambassador and LEAF Award (submitted).

We have planted flowers and vegetables, growing these ourselves in a community planter (we have no outdoor space of our own), we have onions, tomatoes and raspberry plants along with herbs. Our local allotment also donated some plants.

Our pupils painted their hand prints around the outside of the wheelbarrow, choosing different countries flags to celebrate our Childrens' Rights UNICEF award.

We reused the wheelbarrow we rescued last year (it was dumped at the side of a motorway) as the basis of our garden as our school has no outdoor space that we can utilize.

Within the last year Skypoint has worked hard on all aspects of learning for sustainability and we are delighted to have made such progress. After the award our wheelbarrow will be on display for visitors at our school to see.





The garden - from design to reality



St Andrew's Primary School

'Happbee Birthday Garden' – a Birthday Celebration Garden

We were very excited to hear about the Pocket Garden competition. When P3 learned the criteria for the competition it was clear that 'Birthdays' are everyone's favourite celebration and the only choice for our theme. Everyone in the class enthusiastically researched gardening ideas and came up with their own individual garden design.



We laid out all of the plans and the children looked for similarities and fabulous ideas from each other's plans. Together we blended the ideas to come up with our final garden design. We wanted to set the garden out as a 'party tea' with cake, ice cream and cups. Everyone agreed that there should be bunting and that we had to make wooden spoon versions of ourselves so that we could all fit into the pocket party area.

The children wanted their birthday celebration garden to be welcoming to all wildlife and therefore wanted to make as many areas as possible attractive to insects and bugs. As well as designing bug hotels under and on their garden, they were also keen to make a play area for the creatures too.



As soon as we returned to school after our February half term holiday we started planting seeds (so did all the other classes in our school) and shortly after we had an array of seedlings to look after. The whole school was talking about the 'Rain Forest' that was steadily growing in our communal area and several other classes (particularly P4) played a vital role in the watering and nurturing of the seedlings.

We contacted a local roofing company which was giving away wooden pallets, and they were able to deliver ten to our school for all of our classes to share. Miss Prior's dad kindly came to school and put the pallets together for us in a suitable arrangement. Mrs Valentine's son was on exam leave and he came to school and painted the pallets for us. Plant pots and planters were found at the recycling station and also donated by our St. Andrew's School community.

Our fabulous dinner ladies saved all the enormous tins from the school kitchen for us to recycle and turn into planters. We also made an appeal for bricks, roof tiles and old pipes and a local building company kindly offered us everything that we needed.

By the time the Easter holidays came along we had our pallets set up, lots of donations, pots and planters and couldn't wait to get going. Our only problem was what to do with all our seedlings? We knew that they would not survive if we left them unsupervised in school. Luckily we had a contact in 'The School of Biological Sciences' at the University of Edinburgh who offered to babysit our plants for us during the holidays. Our seedlings enjoyed the luxury of the greenhouses and were returned to us bigger and stronger than before. We were also donated some leeks, rhubarb, strawberries and a tree.

It was lovely to establish this connection with the University and Dr Haupt has since made 2 visits to the school to tell us about plant germination and how to successfully transplant seedlings. She was also able to give us advice on mistakes we made in the planting process and has offered to be part of the initial planting process when we plant next year. Pupils have learned so much from this connection (and the adults have too). We look forward to maintain this connection in the future.



We continued to nurture the plants inside until we felt that the weather was warming up outside and that it would be safe to take our plants outdoors. While we were waiting for the weather to heat up, every P3 child painted their own birthday stone and decorated a recycled cup to be used as a planter.

In the process of making our 'Bee Bath' it was suggested that we should decorate the stones as little bumble bees. This encouraged many conversations about the importance of bees and very quickly it was decided that our garden should be a 'Happbee Birthday Garden' and not just a Birthday Garden. The design of our garden then evolved slightly to incorporate more bee themed items into our party theme. Mrs Valentine knitted some bumble bees to buzz around the garden.

Since the middle of May P3 have enjoyed spending time outdoors watering and shaping our 'Happbee Birthday' Celebration Pocket Garden.

Bug Hotels have been built using natural materials collected from the local woods and around our school grounds. The plants were added gradually and then all of the finishing touches were placed. The whole process has been a fantastic learning opportunity for pupils and teachers alike. Everyone has felt happy to be working in the outdoors and a beautiful buzz of excitement has been created throughout the school. Every morning when the school gates open the children literally run to the area where the gardens have been constructed to talk about the small changes that they see and to check if we have any new visitors in the bug hotels. They look out for one another's gardens and have used their initiative to water if they feel that something looks in need of a drink. It is wonderful to see the care and respect that they are showing for living things.

In our finished design we have lots of yummy things to eat including pumpkins, tomatoes, runner beans, rhubarb, chives, basil, beetroot and strawberries. We also have cornflowers, sunflowers, wild seed mix, nasturtium, lobelia, sweet peas, pansies, bee balm and marigolds all waiting to bloom for the bumblebees and butterflies to enjoy. We have pulled together a treasure box of items to use to help us look at and identify the different species that visit our party celebration garden. We are looking forward to harvesting our garden and sampling our homegrown fruits and veggies. We will continue to look after the garden after the competition ends and look forward to seeing how everything will have grown during the summer holidays. In October, we hope to carve our homegrown pumpkins.



Both our local library and community hub are allow us to put on a photo exhibition of our 'Pocket Garden Journey'. We are preparing this at the moment and it will be ready and on display in June. It will be lovely to share our experience with more people in our community (as not everyone is on Twitter). We hope to be an inspiration to other and encourage them to do some planting for wildlife. Our little gardens will hopefully show others that you don't need a big space to make a difference.

As our Garden was coming together pupils were always happy to discover an extra stick or pinecone to be added to the 'Bug Hotel' that they built in the space under the pallets. They also added bark and lichen.

Our colourful birthday stones make an eye-catching feature around the bottom of our celebration garden. Every pupil painted a stone with their birthdate on it. You can also see our mini pond in an early stage of its development.

Some of our pots are also placed on top of small homemade bug hotels. Our 'runner beans' grew strong and tall. In this picture you can see the recycled tin planters that our dinner ladies helped us to collect. We tied ribbons around them to make them look like birthday gifts. In the background you can see the three plant pots that we glued together to look like a giant tiered sponge cake. We have planted strawberries in the top tier so that we can say we were able to eat our 'birthday cake'. A cake is not complete without a candle so we added one to the top of ours for decoration. We hope that many thirsty bumble bees and butterflies will come for a rest and a drink from our bee themed Bee Bath.

P3 were keen to keep the party feeling in their garden and asked if they could have bubbles so that they can enjoy some party fun when they are playing near their garden.

We used old wood and even recycled nails to create shelving on the back side of our garden. We used these shelves to house our 'party drinks' (our herbs planted in recycled fizzy drinks cans).

We initially decided to use a table for our 'birthday cake planter' to sit on, but when we were offered the use of this old tree stump we felt that it would be much more appealing to the insects that we hope to attract. We found it hard to obtain the paint pots we had planned to use for our cake and decided to use some of the many donated plant pots instead.

Our garden has many recycled elements, the basin for the pond and teacups were donated as new but everything else is recycled, up cycled and has been used before. We are delighted to have been able to use so many recycled items because our whole school is working hard to recycle more and we hope our garden is a perfect example to show the benefits of reusing and repurposing old things.

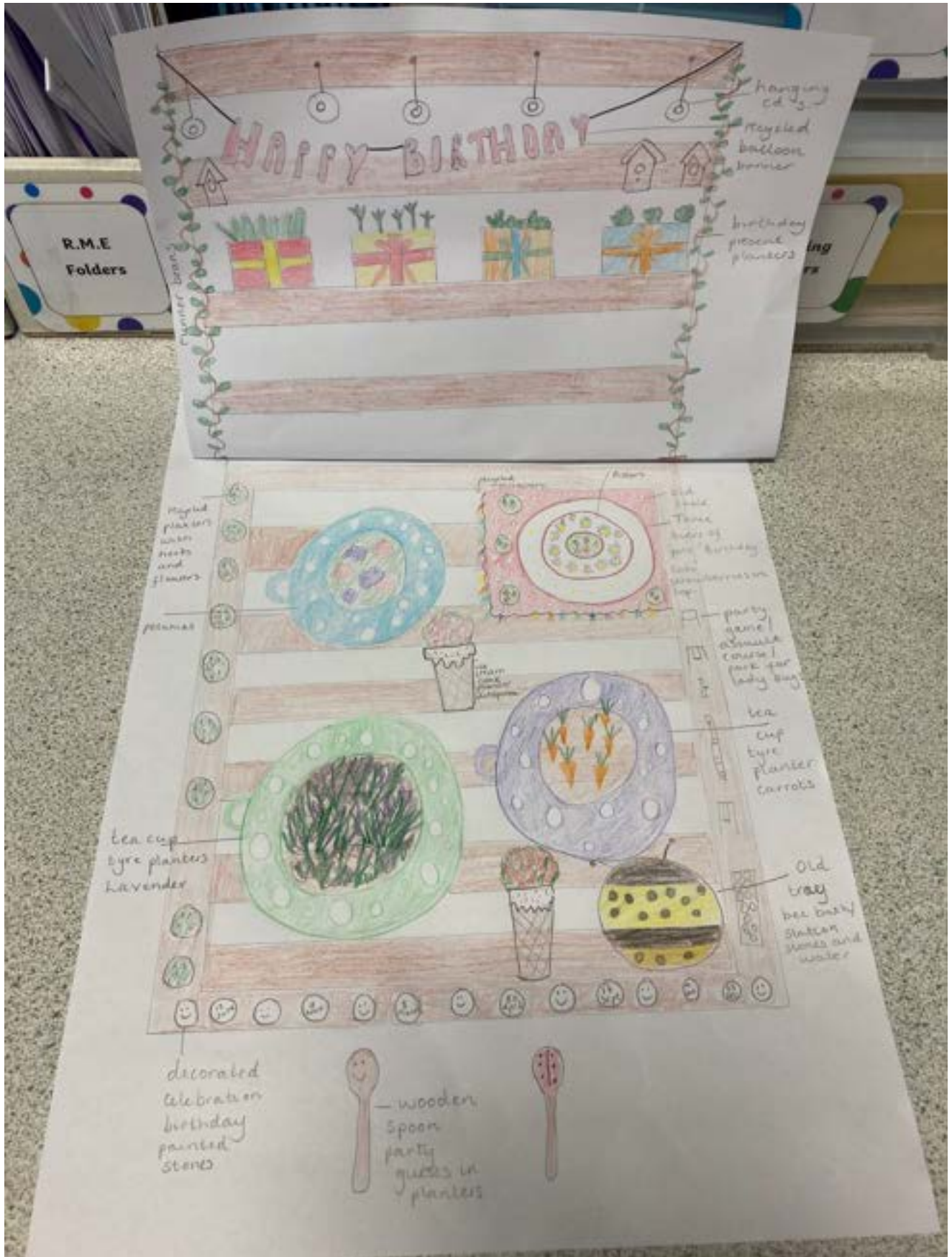
P3 think that their 'Happbee Birthday Garden is the bee's knees!

Creating the garden – from design to reality





Garden Design



St. Andrews Primary went Pocket Garden crazy this year. Here are the other three gardens they grew.

P1



P4



P5



St Francis Primary School

The Celebration of All Animals and Insects

Our garden of celebration celebrates all animals and insects having a home/place to live. This subject was chosen because insects don't have enough attention as they don't have many places to stay even if we need them. Our garden is wildlife friendly because there is a bug hotel, wild grass and many different types of flowers that we planted. This allows the insects to thrive in a safe area with all they need.



For our garden, we attempted to use upcycled materials such as using plastic milk cartons as plant pots, plastic tubes as bug hotels and an old metal pot as a watering hole. We used donated soil and wooden pallets for the crux of our garden.

Pupils enjoyed getting outside, creating the garden and loved seeing the plants grow. The garden has been a great addition to our school grounds as it has been visited by different classes and our nursery. However, during construction of our garden it has been vandalized several times.

After bank holiday weekends our plants have been taken out of plants pots and many of our pots are being destroyed. Nevertheless, our determination in creating a place that celebrates all animals and insects was never damped.

Pupils strived to recreate the garden as best as they could. They replanted, sowed, showed determination and resilience to keep our garden alive overall showing love, faith and hope which should be celebrated too.

After the competition, we shall keep our Pocket Garden to hopefully be visited by more wildlife and we shall keep visiting to see what we spot.

Garden design



Creating the garden – from design to reality

We first started to plan our Pocket Garden, by laying our plant pots where we think best each plant would go. Unfortunately, after a long weekend several of plant pots were destroyed. Plants were taken out of their pots. We original planted the flowers we were intending to put in our Pocket Garden in pots as we weren't too sure if we had enough soil for them to grow. Once we removed them from their pots the managed to thrive.

Stirling Secondary Autism Provision

Thyme for Tea and Cake

This garden of celebration is based on our school turning 90 this year. We have chosen to celebrate with tea and cake. Our design includes edible plants such as Mint, Thyme, and Chamomile as these can be used to make tea. We have included plants in our design that are attractive to wildlife and will support pollination of our strawberry plants.





Tasty strawberries



Repurposed teacup



Mint growing in teapot

Our community has supported our project with donations of pallets, wood, cable drum, teapot, teacups, plants, and the most precious gift of all, time. At the end of term, we are having a strawberry tea to celebrate the achievements of all our young people. We hope to make jam with strawberries, for our scones, and use Mint to add flavour to our refreshments. We will also explore making different flavours of tea using Thyme and Chamomile.

The compost will be repurposed within our outdoor space and the pallet will be used to create a new compost bin.

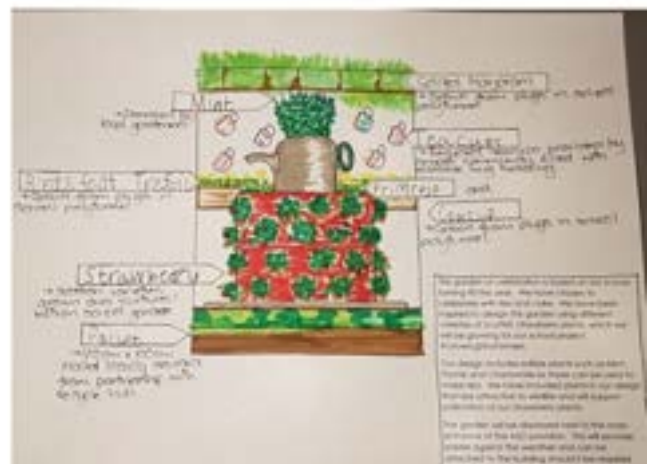
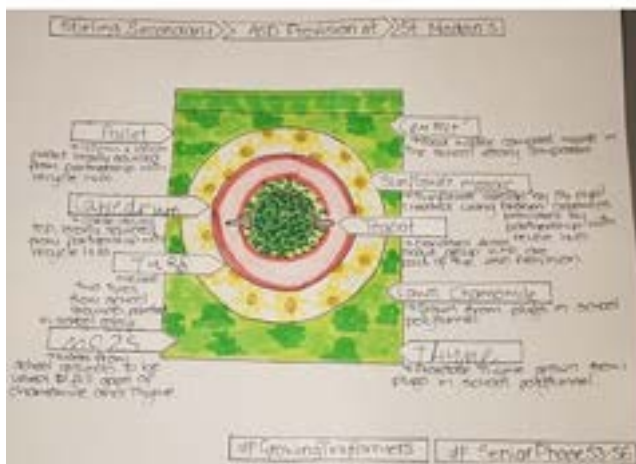
The mosaic 'plate' made from the cable drum will be recycled into a table that can be used in our outdoor classroom. Young people have learned many life skills as they created the garden, and the importance of nurture within nature.



The project follows our creative curriculum, where learning for sustainability is embedded throughout all that we do, it supports young people to be curious about their learning. Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths underpin the strawberry planting experiments which have taken place to grow our strawberries. Young people have planted strawberries outside in the ground using traditional methods of growing. They have plants in recycled growbags within our polytunnel, they have upcycled wellington boots to plant strawberries, learning about drainage and how the soil breathes. Young people have explored more modern growing methods, such as vertical planting and how this may increase capacity within a space, and yield a higher return of produce.

The planting within our Pocket Garden is a reflection of our slow pedagogy, giving plants the time and space to grow. In the same way that young people need time and space to learn.

Garden Design



Creating the garden – from design to reality





Tullynessle Primary School

The Arctic Coral Reef

Our garden celebrates wildlife, nature and compassion. This was chosen because our schools values consider kindness and compassion when thinking about being kind, inclusive, respectful, happy, honest and so on. We also chose this because as a school we are focusing on the rights of the child so have an awareness of our rights.





Willow tiki hut



Nasturtium volcano



Waterfall

Our garden is wildlife friendly as it includes a bug hotel/area, it's made with recycled/re-usable materials. When it truly flowers it will draw insects especially bees.

At Tullynessle we have many mining bees so really like to care for bees. We have used natural materials such as mostly local compost full of juicy goodies, wool from our local friend for under the soil and over in parts to repel snails. We have also used materials gathered from our garden shed and polytunnel such as canes and twine.

Our garden has edible chives, strawberries, tomatoes, lettuces, carrots, nasturtiums, borage and peas. We reused pallets from a local farmer, wood and willow within our school that we grow and collect, pots, cloth for under the soil that has been used before and insulates/contains soil while being breathable.

We have learnt to nurture plants from February onwards each day and plant the plants in bigger pots progressively, we have learnt which plants complement each other, we have learnt that some plants thrive, and others don't, and additional seeds need to be sown.

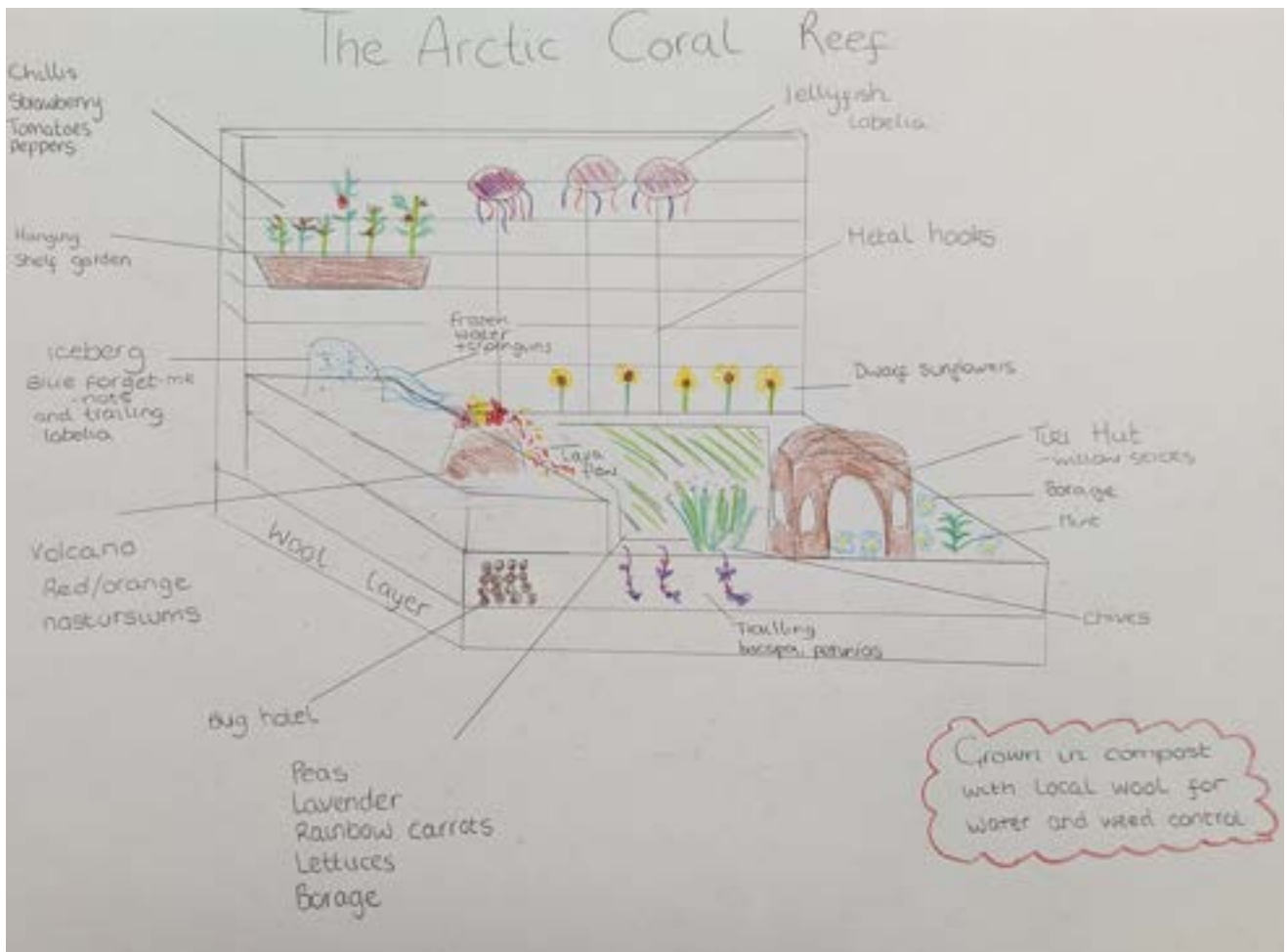


We have learnt that teamwork is key to growing success with a project like this. We have learnt to share our ideas, make designs and practically craft something based on a proposed plan. We have learnt how to adjust to the weather and have discovered that some years are more successful than others. We are desperate to see our flowers!

We have been given pots by the local Scottish Heritage trust and seeds. We have been given compost from local members of the community. We have had a retired PSA help with our design process. After the competition we will continue to nurture the garden and anything that returns the following year will be left while we remove old plants and collect the seeds to then add more the following year. We will also share the garden with our school Nursery for small world play opportunities and our younger learners within the school. We are very sad there hasn't been much flowering yet so would love to send a photo in a little while when flowering happens.

Thank you so much for letting us compete. It has been a delightful experience.

Garden Design



The garden – from design to reality



Whinhill Primary School

A Celebration of Languages and Cultures at Whinhill

Our garden celebrates the many languages and cultures in our school. We have around 16 different languages spoken to different degrees by children who either have parents of different nationalities, or who are from our many new Scots families. We also have a Gaelic unit within the school. Our team are from P3 and 4 and their languages are Ukrainian, Russian, Farsi and Dari. They were an absolute joy to work with, so keen and enthusiastic about growing things. Language was no barrier.



We sowed vegetable seeds (spinach, Swiss chard, peas) and flower seeds (marigolds, sunflowers, cerinthe) and divided some of the plants already in the school garden for herbs and strawberries and other flowers. We used pallets from our saved stack of used ones (with thanks to our janitor for doing some joinery work on them) and we re-used sacking pot-holders we made last year. We gathered old wood, fallen branches and pine-cones, filled old plant-pots and put them in fruit crates for our bug hotel.



Repurposed poly-bag flowers



Helpful gnome



Sacking pot holders

We realized that we weren't going to have flowers out in time, thanks to the cold weather so to add some colour, the team made flowers from recycled poly-bags. We added a carton of water for the bees, and to highlight all our many languages, we asked the children in whose homes these were spoken, to write down the name of the language and decorate around it. We pinned these on our garden wall.



One of our EAL teachers knitted the lovely garden gnome and he looks after the small pebble garden which has sempervivum babies that all came from a plant that was a gift several years ago. I hope that you can see from the photos how much fun we had.

The children are irrepressible, and we are incredibly proud of them. Our garden will remain at the front of the school.

Garden Design





peas
spinach
Swiss chard
strawberries
lemon thyme
rosemary



foxglove
buttercups
sunflowers
ox-eye daisies
cerinthe
nasturtiums



Whitehill Secondary School

Whitehill Eco Group's Incredible Edible Pan-Pollination Celebration of Climate Activism

Our design is a triple celebration of edible plants, pollinators and climate activism. Our design uses edible herbs, all of which flower to attract pollinating insects. Using plants that best fit the colour pattern of the NASA 2022 heat map, we are celebrating climate activism. It is only through the hard work of climate activists across the world that we have a chance of ensuring NASA's 2099 projection heat map is never realised!



We envisaged a simple raised bed construct that would rely on the beauty and aroma of our chosen plants as well as the natural elegance of our Earth's continents. All but one plant used (*Coreopsis*) is edible. The other plants used were lavender, thyme, parsley, sage and kale.

Our garden is made from wood and recycled plumbers tubing. We contacted a local joiner company for a donation of wood, and they kindly provided it. We borrowed garden tools from our parents and the science department. Our techy teacher also kindly allowed us to use the workshop to build the walls of the bed.

We learned a lot during this project. Many of us had never planted before. Many of us had never tasted some of the herbs (e.g. sage). Building the garden also allowed us to work outdoors and renewed our commitment to making our school more environmentally friendly place to learn and work. We were also helped by our mentor at the RGS, Angela Smith, who gave us advice and set us flower seeds.

A challenge we faced was bringing on the plants enough so we could shape them into the outline of the continents. Time was also an issue as, ideally our flowering plants would need to flower for the full Heat Map effect. We built a construction using tubing and horticultural mesh to try and bring the plants on. Unfortunately, this did not work so the garden is not as full and colourful as we hoped it would be.

Nevertheless, we enjoyed building it and, in many respects, its been a successful project. Our garden has received a lot of attention from teachers and fellow pupils. We have new Eco group members. Our head teacher has agreed to allow us to expand the garden across a 10 square meter plot. We've started thinking about design and what recycled material we can use.

For example, we've been given old filing cabinets by the janitor to use as planters. Furthermore, complimenting the garden will be a series of wildflower meadows located around the school grounds. This will be carried by our S2 cohort, with our help, as part of their John Muir Award.

Garden design



Creating the garden - from design to reality





We support the Sustainable Development Goals.

Keep Scotland Beautiful is your charity for
Scotland's environment. We work with you to help
combat climate change, tackle litter and waste,
restore nature and biodiversity and improve places.



T: 01786 471333 E: info@keepscotlandbeautiful.org



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