

Allotment Newsletter April 2016

Spring is here and it is time to get into the garden and make the most of the warmer (???) weather and longer evenings.

First, an apology for the late start to our gardening project this year. I was visiting family in Australia over the Easter break so things have been a little rushed. We did manage to get some seeds sown before I left with the help of the 2-3 club on Friday afternoons in March. Many thanks to Brenda Rodgers, Gordon Laird and Val Gibson who looked after the seedlings over the Easter holidays and did a fantastic job as you can see from the photo.



Our first Saturday allotment session of the year was held on April 16th. It was arranged at short notice (from Australia) so apologies to the parents from St Therese who didn't get the notice about it. It was a small and select gathering but as usual the sun shone and we did manage to get a lot done.



The new raised beds got weeded ready for planting the veges and flowers that have been started off in the tunnel.



The tomato seedlings were potted up and more seeds were sown.

The greenhouse and surrounding area was cleared.

A new potato bed was dug as we have lots of spuds ready to go in. Last year we grew potatoes in bags but they didn't do very well so I thought we'd try them in the ground this year. However, the ground is heavy clay with lots of rocks so it was hard going – many thanks to Andy and Rowan for their hard work.



And of course the kids made a den and ate cake!



The next Saturday allotment sessions will be on

7th May from 2.00-5.00pm and the **21st May from 2.00-5.00pm.**

Everyone is welcome.

See below for information about the new Friday afternoon gardening club.

Friday Afternoon Gardening Club

Heather Read and I have started a Friday afternoon gardening club from 2.00-4.00pm. This is open to any parents/grandparents and their children who would like to come. As it is not supervised by teaching staff it is important that children come with an adult who will take responsibility for supervising and assisting them. I am happy to provide the materials and show people what to do. I would like to encourage the children to get more involved in doing the actual gardening at these sessions. We have held a couple of sessions with a few of the children from the 2-3 club and would like to open it up to others as well. Anyone can drop by for as long as suits them, on any Friday. It would be good to build up a regular group but I realise it's not always possible for people to come every week.



We will be growing vegetables and flowers to plant in the allotment, with the aim of the children harvesting them and taking their produce home later in the year. We are also growing plants to sell at the summer fete so we can raise some money to help cover our costs. The PTA are funding the allotment so it would be nice to contribute to fundraising for it.