




CHRIST CHURCH C.E. FIRST SCHOOL

Healthwatch Stafford Community Fund 2021-2022



Thanks to the funding from the Heathwatch Staffordshire community fund, we have been able to transform 2 areas of the school playground and provide opportunities for our children that we did not have before.

As a Victorian school in a terraced street, we have little outdoor green space and we were unable to share a love for gardening and growing with the children. Now we have 4 fabulous planters and wonderful plants donated by the local community to allow the children to see where fruit and veg come from and taste the end results.

We have also developed a wonderful wellbeing and refection area, allowing children space away from the busy playground where they can relax.

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Garden transformation

2021-2022

This is our enclosed garden area and the back wall had to be cleared to make space for the raised planters we needed for this project



Part One



Clear the areas



Build the planters



Source plants and compost



We removed this old and rotten arbour bench and cleared the space around this area



We had to take out some edging that had rotted and rusted to make the space safe for children to walk around



A local tradesperson custom built the planters so that they were the right height for young gardeners



And we positioned these in our enclosed garden area so that they would be protected from playground games

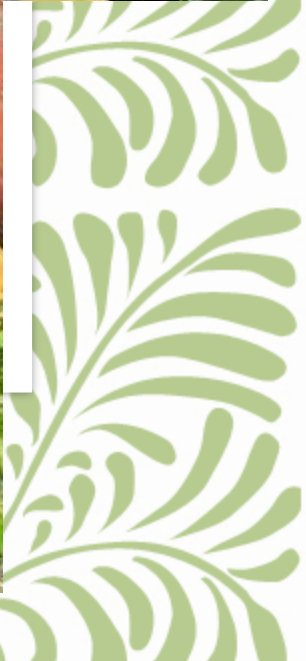


PLANTING PREP

During British Science Week in March, each class sowed seeds to see how things grew. We had a wide variety of examples from herbs to tomatoes and beans. Many of these have been transferred to our planters.



Year 2 really enjoyed planting up the larger planters with tomato plants, strawberries and beans.





Thanks to the generosity of our Community Champion at Morrison's and the kindness of local gardeners and growers, Year 2 could also plant up the flowers and plants for our wellbeing and reflection area. We used lavender and ginger mint to give the garden a sensory element that we think the children will really enjoy.

This part of the project was to turn a disused area of the playground into an outdoor classroom/wellbeing and reflection area.

This area is hidden behind the main building and the mobile classrooms and provides the perfect escape from children wishing to avoid the hustle and bustle of the busy playground which can be overwhelming.

Part Two



Clear the areas



Build the bespoke seating



Source plants and pots



We had to remove the old, dilapidated greenhouse, clear the rubbish and remove the storage bins and bike racks to make space for the seating area. Thanks to generous parents who did all the prep work, the area was cleared.





The final stage was to get the bespoke seating constructed and fitted. There are 4 planter spaces to allow us to grow aromatic plants and herbs as well as flowers and climbers.



"I really enjoyed planting. It's nice to see the flowers – they make the playground look pretty." Annabel (Y3)



Year 3 helped to spruce up some of the existing borders on the school playground.



What do the children think?

I liked looking at the strawberries because they were growing and I like when things grow. I like the fountain because it works.

I liked looking at the strawberries because they were growing and I like when things grow. I like the fountain because it works!
Zac – Year 2

I loved the planting because we got a bit dirty and it was really nice. My favourite part of the garden is the fountain, because the sound was relaxing.

I loved planting because we got a bit dirty and it was really nice. My favourite part of the garden is the fountain because the sound was relaxing.
Fraya Year 2

I like gardening because it makes me happy. In the garden I like the grass to meditate.

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Riley – Year 2

I really enjoyed planting the lavender and especially like the garden because it looks like a calm fairy garden.

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Daniel - Year 2

I enjoyed digging holes and putting the plants in the soil. I like the tomatoes in the garden.

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Aidan – Year 2



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