



**CASE  
STUDY**

**THE  
GROWING  
SCHOOLS GARDEN**

**LEARNING OUTSIDE  
THE CLASSROOM**

Natural Environment Sector

**St John's  
Church of England Primary  
School, Sevenoaks, Kent**

# CASE STUDY



## Why we got involved

The school had been working with LTL on the Space to Grow project developing the outside classroom. We created our own allotment last year in the infant playground and used much of what we grew for school dinners. We know that many of our pupils do not have any green space at home and are not taken out to the local park etc so having opportunities to get 'stuck in' is an ideal way of enabling them to learn about nature, their food, conservation and re-cycling.

## What we made for the garden, to represent the Natural Environment

The mini-beast designs were created by the children, and a local 'creative' volunteer helped the children to put their ideas into practice. They were insistent that the caterpillar should be climbing up the stalk of a flower.

To represent other facets of outdoor learning we also grew vegetables from seed and made two mosaics.

# CASE STUDY

## What we learned

All the children were concerned when we had very little rain and they all made sure that each one of them watered the plants every day (Hence the reason some of the plants did not survive – too much TLC from the children!). The work provided very good opportunities for cross-curricular links such as problem solving and calculations, also shape and space in Maths.

## Photo gallery



# CASE STUDY



## Quotes

*'I don't like eating carrots but I like growing them!'* Dylan, aged 5.

*'Mum says I can grow a sunflower in a pot at home.'* Jade, aged 5.

# CASE STUDY



## Other information

We are an Eco School and take great pride in our efforts to create a natural environment around our school. We take part in the Gardening for Wildlife Scheme, having already gained a bronze and silver award. We are hoping for gold this year!

## Contact details

St John's C of E Primary School  
Bayham Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3XD  
Tel 01732 453944  
Email [headteacher@st-johns-sevenoaks.kent.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@st-johns-sevenoaks.kent.sch.uk)

Contact Mrs Margaret Pearson

