

# CASE STUDY

THE GROWING SCHOOLS GARDEN

LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Food and Farming Sector

## Leedstown County Primary School, Cornwall

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## Why we got involved

There were two new people running the gardening club at school, and we felt it would help give us a challenge and a focus to the year.

## What we made for the garden, to represent Food and Farming

We grew several hundred vegetable plants. The children sowed the seeds and pricked out the seedlings. Then, because this was actually too much to contain and look after at school, they've been grown on at one of our homes.


To represent other facets of outdoor learning we made five tree dressings in the form of pyramidal bamboo and paper lanterns decorated with pressed plant material.

We also provided local rock for a gabion and an identifying slate painted by the children.

## What we learned

We've thought about designs that will look good from a distance outdoors (i.e. clear rather than too detailed or crowded), and learned about media to stand up to outside conditions. This made a change from a lot of what we usually do in art because that tends to be displayed indoors.

We've done more sowing in pots and pricking out than we normally do in the fruit and vegetable garden, where much of our planting is sown direct. We learned about sowing a wide variety of seed, more than we usually grow, and rules of thumb to do with sowing depth. We discovered that even if you plant an onion set upside down it will grow. We also learned just how reliable seeds that have been cultivated and selected for a long time are, because we got so many carrot plants and lettuces that we had a plant sale of the excess at school. Other seeds, like wild dye plants we've grown alongside, have germinated very erratically.





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## Photo gallery



## Quotes

'I want one of these for my room!' [Lanterns]

'HOW many?' [Plants]

'POP!' [Running around doing star jumps, being cells bursting when the water in them freezes, when we explained why the tender plants had to be kept frost free. Trust me, if you've never had ten children running around a playground being exploding plant cells, you've not lived.]



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## Other information

In the school we have a four-bed-rotation fruit and veg garden, a willow house that needs weaving maintenance each year, and a wildlife corner with pond where 'mini-beast' studies go on.

We are establishing more flowers, including a small meadow area and dye plants to be used in the classroom (tie dyeing having been done so far with bought in beetroots!). We are also planning a tulip rainbow bed and a human sundial for next term.

Every year the children do a summer camp that involves field studies and rock-pooling. They also attend educational days at National Trust gardens.

## Contact details

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