



**Dorset Gardens Trust Schools**



**18<sup>th</sup> e-newsletter**

**WELCOME TO THE AUTUMN TERM!**

**We do hope you have managed to have a good summer break**

**We ended the Summer Term with a great Twilight session at  
Shaftesbury Abbey School**



**We admired their pond area and spotted a Royal Oak seedling.**



**We thank the Headmaster and his staff for making us feel so  
welcome and also very many thanks to a couple of the  
Twilighters who came up with some helpful ideas.**

## The first is from Kate Hillam:

As promised, below is the recipe for the pest control I use at home. Regular use deters slugs and snails, birds and butterflies and will also dessicate (!) freshly hatched caterpillars.

1 garlic bulb blended with 1 litre of water and left to stand for a couple of hours  
1 tbsp of chilli powder boiled in 1 litre of water for 10 mins  
mix the two and strain.

While still warm, add 1 tsp neem oil (I got it online - lasts for ages) and 1 tsp washing up liquid

Mix and put in a spray bottle. I tend to store surplus in a squash bottle.

It's fine to get on your hands but do wash well afterwards because of the chilli.

It can leave you smelling a little oniony - that's the neem oil.

Use regularly after rain/watering.

I even use it on soil after sowing seeds to stop mice digging them up.

The book I mentioned is Homegrown Revolution by James Wong. It is full of great ideas for funky, low maintenance edibles.

We are also most grateful for this information about dye activities:

I have given just one website about dye activities with children, but an online search will provide many more.

<https://lifestyle.howstuffworks.com/crafts/nature-crafts/nature-craft-activities-for-kids4.htm>



### [Natural Dyes for Kids | HowStuffWorks](https://lifestyle.howstuffworks.com/crafts/nature-crafts/nature-craft-activities-for-kids4.htm)

Before there were chemical dyes, people had to make natural dyes from plant materials. Try your hand at dyeing a shirt or bandanna with natural dyes for kids nature craft. You'll need an adult to help you with the cutting and boiling in this project. Step 1: Wash cotton or wool material in ...

[lifestyle.howstuffworks.com](https://lifestyle.howstuffworks.com)

Very many thanks for sharing this information.

## **EDD'S PLOT**

**By Edd Moore the DGT Schools' Ambassador 2019**

We were excited to welcome the Dorchester Community to our gardens at Damers First School to show them what the children had been up to over the past months. The children gave guided tours around the gardens showing off all the amazing vegetables and fruits they had grown over the term. They all spoke with great confidence as they went from raised bed to raised bed. There was great interest in the The Ridan Food Waste Composter especially seeing the amazing rich compost that is made from all the food waste within the school. The children have come back to some amazing pumpkins!



The school now has five hens laying eggs on a regular bases as well as a new Wildlife Area which the children are looking forward to using this term. The Wildlife Area was funded by the children's award winning Young Enterprise Product Waxtastic no Plastic as well as the items that the school recycles from donations from the local community.



**The Schools committee wish to thank Edd very much indeed for all his contributions to our newsletter and also for helping so many of our schools.**

**We will be announcing the DGT Schools Ambassador for 2020 in December.**

## **The Priory School's Eco Project**

**A report by our committee member Mary Reader**



Take a small Victorian school located in the middle of what often feels like a traffic roundabout and surrounded by concrete and suggest that it becomes an Eco school with a fully-productive garden - may I introduce you to the Priory School in Christchurch.

It was only a few years ago that the parents, realising that there was nowhere for the children to play games without using another school's sports field, provided an 'Astroturf' surface for football and other sport. However, if you visit the school now there is a total transformation. Although still in its early stages the keenness of their school's estate manager Paul Diggins and the support of a willing grandmother Mrs Bowden really shine through.

Their project, which is pupil-led by children from each of seven classes, has already transformed the school entrance with brightly coloured visual boards explaining the concept behind the project, which provides the opportunity to learn about how plants grow, and allows the children to use their imagination. Already the school has taken part in the British Schools Clean-up programme and litter pick and has achieved a silver award. The school has created several new areas of planting and also built a sensory classroom in the playground.

The Dorset Garden Trust has recently awarded a grant of £500 to the school to create a sensory and pollination garden adjacent to the new classroom. This has been designed by the children, and they will choose every plant and be given time to maintain the garden. The children have already grown their own vegetables using very large swan shaped planters and the aim is to provide the school kitchen with vegetables over the coming months.

Christchurch town also recently ran its second Flower Festival, and as part of that invited schools to enter a visually striking wheelbarrow competition to show off the school's values and its enthusiasm to engage in the local community. The Priory school's Eco-committee combined to produce two entries, and despite lots of competition from other local schools came third in their KS1 category winning £500 for their school. Their second entry, in the KS2 category, was most impressive and won £250 of garden vouchers - which will also be used for the new sensory garden.

With this amount of enthusiasm, it seems that even the concrete has become alive, and the children are maximising their practical skills within the curriculum and recycling almost all of their waste material.

More news:

From Trent Youngs VA CE School - a successful project completed.  
Their new spiritual garden



And a successful harvest at St Osmund's School



HUGE congratulations to all our schools who achieved so much last year, and many many thanks to all of you teachers who work so hard to encourage children to become fascinated in gardening.

**FROM ALL THE DGT SCHOOL TEAM - GOOD GARDENING!**