

## Gardening Club Summer 2023



Gardening Club members have been very busy over the summer term planting seeds, transplanting seedlings and doing lots of weeding and watering!

The weather has been challenging and has led to our harvest not being as large as we had hoped. However, we have had successes and the children are learning how climate change is influencing what we grow and how we grow it.

In the vegetable garden we have grown elephant garlic which is due for harvesting soon, onions, potatoes, broad and runner beans, radishes, carrots, peas, spring onions and salad crops which did very well in the hot weather last month.

Unfortunately, the pumpkins and courgettes we planted from seed first of all died of over heat despite regular watering and then from slug and snail devastation once the rain started. We will try again next year!



We planted a new soft fruit bed this year with summer and autumn fruiting raspberries, blackcurrants, gooseberries, strawberries and rhubarb, many grown from cuttings or dividing plants. We have left these new plants to establish and have not harvested stalks or fruit this year in the hope that they will grow into strong plants for next year.

We continue to be part of the RHS Community garden scheme, joined in the Big Seed sow earlier in the spring and have joined Coronation Gardens and Wild about your Garden both of which encourage increasing biodiversity in planting to encourage pollinators, hedgehogs and other wildlife back in to our gardens and wild areas. We undertook a survey of how wild our school grounds were with WildlifeTrusts scoring 69 which we were really pleased with. There is still room for improvement, so we hope to team up with Planet Protectors to do some projects together next year. Other plans for next year include growing our own plants to put in a container to show in Bollington in Bloom in June 2024 and to take part in the Bollington Gardening Club Spring Show.

Gardening Club restarts in September for any child in Years 1-6.