



# Ratho Primary School Garden Report May 2013



# Summary of School Garden Progress

## April 2012 - May 2013



The Secret Garden was in full bloom last June with the Garden Group spending Tuesday evenings from Easter to the October break cultivating, weeding pruning & carrying out general garden maintenance such as rubbing back & treating the wood on the living bench. Our focus was to carry on developing the wild flower area which is thriving very well. We have also started to develop the very top triangle area of the garden as a small grass meadow & hope to use whips from the willow to cordon this area off from attack by the council lawnmowers!

Several of the vegetable boxes were planted successfully by teachers and their classes.

The Parent Council & PTA held a Fun Day in the school grounds the first weekend of the new term. Several of the Garden Group, including the children, spent the last few days of the holidays sprucing up the garden, repairing damage to the path from torrential summer rain, cutting the hedges, painting the woodwork and attacking the weeds.

The paint and sundries were paid for from the Garden Stall funds made at the March 2012 PTA Spring Fair.



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## Primary 6 JASS Project

Funds from the 2012 Garden stall at the Spring Fair were used to purchase pots, acrylic paints, brushes, compost & plants as part of the P6 Jass Project to enhance an area of the school.

The pupils worked in groups of 2 or 3 to design on paper what they would like to paint onto a terra-cotta pot which they would then plant. The designs were very diverse from flowers to the Australian Outback to geometric shapes to the Scottish Flag, no limits to imagination with this group! the pupils worked well throughout the term at the task, building up the design on the pots and finally planting them up. The pots were placed at the school entrance where they thrived under the watchful care of Gus who kept them well watered throughout the summer.



## The Wormery

The worms continue to thrive despite the cold and wet weather. They are checked each week & topped up with organic matter if required. Due to the very wet weather the compost that they are making is very wet & the tap is open to prevent the worms drowning. we have added quite a lot of leaf litter picked up from the garden to help dry out the compost & make it more pleasant for the worms. Maybe this year they will have produced enough compost for us the use in the garden! Keep adding those apple cores!

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### Whole School Enterprise Project

Some of the Garden Group funds, held by the Parent Council, were used towards a whole school enterprise project to decorate pots, grow sunflowers, design and make sunflower labels, with funky names, and then sell them at the PTA Spring Fair. Shona Johnson organised the purchasing of the materials, Mrs Smith coordinated the classes and the tasks, Gillian Mair came into school to plant seeds with the pupils & the teachers were on hand at the fair to sell the completed pots, 45 in total. A good team effort by parents, teachers & pupils. The pots were sold at £3.00 each with only a small handful of pots left at the end of the sale.

£98.16 was used from Garden Funds to pay for materials.

### Sunshine in a Box with RAG

Helen & Shona spent a morning with the Mrs Smith & the Ratho Action Group building sunflower growing kits to sell at the Spring Fair. We had a very successful production line going with some children putting the bagged compost in the pots, some sticking ladybirds onto the plant labels, some counting out seeds & popping them in envelopes for someone else to put a sunflower label on & a very busy team putting everything into the baguette holder ready for sale. The children were a great team & enjoyed the task. The costs for the sunshine kits were covered by sales made on the Plant Stall at the Spring Fair.



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## PTA Spring Fair Plant Stall

The Spring Fair was a month later this year to enable the Plant Stall to have a larger choice of perennial plants for sale. This year however it had been so cold & wet that nothing at all was growing!!

As the cold wet weather continued on the run up to the sale we did begin to panic a little. However with our eco herbs, Sunshine in a Box & a little help from Phil Johnson, my father, and his poly tunnel, we managed to have a good variety of plants for sale as well as bird snax & seed bombs, made by Helen & daffodils from our garden.



The plants Stall took £172.50 less £47.93 for plant & compost expenses, giving us a clear profit of £124.57.

This amount has been banked by the Parent Council.



The Garden Group welcome anyone who can spare an hour on a Tuesday evening to come along and garden with us. Don't worry if you don't know your onions from your dahlias, only enthusiasm required & we enjoy learning from each other, bring the kids they love to help and to play.