

Gardening Club News

Rainow Gardening Club have had a busy start to the growing year. Our first meeting was to decide what to grow this year, the children made a long list! Since then we have been busy weeding the raised beds, adding muck to improve the soil quality, planting strawberry plants, rhubarb crowns and raspberry canes into a new fruit bed, watching the Elephant garlic, crocus and narcissus growing up with bees visiting, dividing perennial plants to make new ones and planting onions.

We have joined the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) **Big Seed Sow**, joining communities across the UK planting seeds. We will plant ours after Easter as it is so cold in Rainow currently! We have been donated free flower and herb seeds from the RHS and have varieties of vegetable and flowers seeds of our own to plant as well; last year we dried out runner bean and nasturtium seeds and will replant these next term. This year we will grow potatoes

in bags giving us room for other plants in the raised beds. **Mrs Rudall**, who many of you will remember was Year 2 teacher and SENCO, has recently moved to a new house with an amazing garden and has given us 2 gooseberry bushes and 2 currant canes which we planted the fruit bed this week.

Thanks to **Juliet (Year 5)** who collected her old yogurt pots and put drainage holes in the bottom so we could use them to plant onions in, enabling gardeners to take one home to grow. A great recycling and gardening combination!

Thanks also to **Mrs Parker** who is going to join us on Wednesdays when she can. You may remember she was Year 6 teacher at Rainow for many years but she also ran Gardening Club, so is returning to help us.

New project for 2023 - we decided to try to reclaim an area of land next to the raised beds which used to have a small pond on it but which has been overgrown for several years. We have recycled old carpet from Year 3 to stop some of the weeds growing and plan to develop the area as the year progresses.

Small greenhouse - Rainow gardeners are in need of a small greenhouse to extend the growing season and protect young plants and seedlings prior to planting out. If you know of anyone who no longer needs their greenhouse and wants to find a good home for it please contact Ms Lewis on rlewis@rainowpri.cheshire.sch.uk

