

Chisenhale's
edible
Playground

Setting up the Edible Playground

October 2010

Gardening project is launched

- Key Aims:
- To grow enough fruit and vegetables in the playgrounds to be able to eat them in the school cafeteria and learn about them in the classroom
- To offer children contact with the natural world and learn about where their food comes from
- To provide fun and interesting learning opportunities which are linked to the National Curriculum in subjects such as science, history, geography, art, design and technology and maths
- To give the children an insight into the seasonal nature of food and the variety of foods that can be grown locally
- To reinforce healthy eating messages
- To provide a practical opportunity to learn how important the environment is and to learn about sustainable living
- Through caring for plants and watching them grow, children can learn important skills such as patience, respect and co-operation which fit in with citizenship in the National Curriculum

The beginning of the Edible Playground



- Parents, pupils and staff came in to clear the garden. It was overgrown with shrubs, so we had a long, but rewarding day.

Clearing the garden



- We cleared the rooftop planters, the nursery planters and the main garden too. All containers were lined and filled with nutritious compost ready for growing.



Teachers staff meeting

We held meetings and training sessions for the teachers



Getting some help from the wider community



- We joined Capital Growth and received a grant to help set the garden up and buy some tools. We were able to buy a greenhouse, which has proved to be invaluable, even though we wish it was three times as large! We have also had a lot of help from ELBA (East London Business Alliance) who have arranged for corporate volunteers to come in and assist us.

- We painted signs so that each class had its own rooftop planter and two head gardener from each class were voted in. We joined the RHS Campaign for school gardening.



Building the greenhouse



Growing in the classroom



Building the willow den



The willow den in the summer



Family gardening club

We set up a Friday gardening club for pupils and their parents, grandparents and the wider community. It runs all year.

