



END OF PROJECT SUMMARY

Dedham Vale AONB Sustainable Development Fund

AFTERSCHOOL NATURE GARDENING CLUB KIT

Herbaculture's Dan Wheals at Stratford St. Mary Primary School.

FINAL COST: £700 (less that 50%, I don't have school staff cost figures)

NO. INVOLVED:

70 pupils. (20 pupils on a more regular basis)

Summary of Activities. Herbaculture Gardening Club Kit - The GREEN HAND GANG at Stratford St. Mary.
Started the after school Club and ran it from 20/3/15 to 17/7/15 with 14 pupils attending. It has become part of the Stratford St. Mary Primary School life. The New 2015/2016 year has started well with the after school club now running at lunchtime for Key Stage 1 and after school for Key Stage 2 on Fridays.
Kit purchased for the school gardening kits and has already been well used. Tools, materials, seeds, compost and plants.
Silver awarded the RHS School Garden design competition held at RHS Hyde Hall. Theme of Wonderland was represented by a swan's nest which is part of the AONB Wonderland. This was part of the publicity that was supplied to the AONB Newspaper with photos and content. Entered the Suffolk Show for 2016 garden design competition called "A Slice of Suffolk History".
Plans to Start 2016 Spring onwards with the GREEN HAND GANG. Growing rocket seeds that have been in space. Giant Pumpkin growing competition and exploring links to curriculum in the garden.
Still hoping to link with other schools in the AONB. Possible Summer term teacher training planned for local schools. Letters have been sent and publicity in the AONB magazine has promoted opportunities for local schools to join in the after school club scheme.
Flatford Fun day in May 2015 attended with screen printing a comfrey design onto material. Planning to be there for a herb walk activity in 2016.

MAIN BENEFITS:

Connecting Children to the place where they live.

Making stories about specific trees/ plants in their area.

Growing seeds and vegetable crops.

Linking gardening & nature to the curriculum.

Thanks to **Dedham Vale AONB Sustainable Development Fund**, Stratford St. Mary School, RHS Hyde Hall, Place for Plants, Bypass Nurseries, Flatford Fun days partnership, Parents and supporters of the Green Hand Gang.

Lessons Learnt: Easier to work with children of the same approximate age. Kids love nature and often the most basic things are new to them. Looking after seeds is hard once a week so links with teachers is crucial. Not easy to make an after school club financially viable so would not have been possible without Fund's support. schools are wary of outside activities so risk assessments crucial. I would love to make the gardening more integrated into school.

Please contact me if you would like to get involved with this project.