



12th February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are excited to introduce **Castle Kids' Patch**, a new initiative aimed at engaging our students with the natural world through hands-on gardening experiences. This project will be integrated into our Forest School classes and will also offer an after-school club for those interested in learning more about growing, sustainability, and healthy living. The project will:

- **Foster Learning Through Gardening:** Students will participate in all aspects of gardening, from planting seeds to harvesting crops, gaining firsthand experience in how food grows and the importance of caring for the land.
- **Promote Sustainability and Environmental Awareness:** By exploring plant growth and ecosystems, children will understand sustainability and the impact of their choices on the planet.
- **Encourage Healthy Eating and Living:** Growing fruits and vegetables will help students appreciate healthy food choices and their benefits.
- **Support Mental Health:** Gardening offers significant mental health benefits, providing a calming and grounding effect, reducing stress, and boosting self-esteem.

As a school we will look to facilitate this through Forest School experiential learning with activities like digging, harvesting, watering, and crafting. Also through a new Gardening Club: In-depth learning about composting, plant care, and creating a thriving growing environment.

How You Can Support:

- **Site Preparation:** We need volunteers to help clear the allocated allotment patch on Sunday, 23rd February from 10.30am. (Weather permitting) Please come dressed to get muddy! As the site is currently not safe, please can we ask that just adults come to help.
- **Seed Sowing Prep:** Children will plant seeds while the allotment is being set up. We are seeking donations for a small greenhouse to store seedlings.
- **Tools and Equipment Storage:** We need a small lock-up shed for onsite storage and will seek donations from local businesses.

Ongoing Support:

- **Teacher and Staff Volunteers:** Assistance from teachers and staff, even on a rotational basis, would be invaluable.
- **Parental Involvement:** We invite parents to contribute through donations or volunteer work.
- **Village Involvement:** We plan to involve the local Gardening Club and explore support from village members.



Working in partnership with



Head of School: Mr Steve Morton

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**Long-Term Sustainability:**

- **Resources:** Ongoing access to seeds, compost, and educational materials is vital. Support through donations, fundraising, or partnerships will ensure the project's success.

The Castle Kids' Patch Donation List:

- Compost
- Woodchip
- Water Butt
- Small lockable Shed
- Polytunnel
- Bench and table
- Small Greenhouse storage (On School site)
- Seeds (Beetroot, Radish, Sweet Peas, Nasturtiums, Cosmos, Runner Beans, Courgette, Peas, Sunflowers, Lettuce, cucumber, tomato, sweetcorn, pumpkin)
- Plants (Dahlias & other colourful flowers)
- Seed trays
- Seed planting pots
- Pots for container planting and upcycling



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Castle Primary School is part of the Cabot Learning Federation, a company limited by guarantee.
Registered office: Federation House, Brook Road, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 4JT. Company registration no. 06207590.

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Thank you for your support in bringing Castle Kids' Patch to life. We look forward to working together to make this initiative a success!

Kind Regards,

Dusk Eastment & Martin Eastment

Castle Kids' Patch Volunteer Team



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