

# The Wallace & Gromit Great Vegetable Challenge / Forest School Project

Class 5D, Daubeney Primary School  
Hackney, London E5 OEG

- By Helen Inman, Teacher / outdoor curriculum coordinator:

During the past 4 weeks class 5D and I have been exploring our local environment. As is clear from the comments below the children have had a great time and had heaps of experiential, cross curricular and effective learning experiences culminating with designing an edible, low maintenance, high yielding, accessible, sustainable, safe, creative, adventurous Permaculture garden.

Through loud discussion 5D identified what they wanted in the garden:

- Sculpture, plants, trees, willow structures, fire for cooking, tee-pee, fountain, insect dining room, sound sculptures, vegetables.

After outdoor workshops on observation, orientation and what is happening in the site of the proposed garden, 5D split into 6 small groups (as below), then organised themselves into the correct place for them to thrive. A noisy process!

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|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. 'Large trees' | 4. 'Climbers'         |
| 2. 'Small trees' | 5. 'Ground cover' and |
| 3. 'Shrubs'      | 6. 'Fungi'            |

Through class discussions and research on nature, the environment, food and sustainability class 5D have initially produced:

- Mind maps
- Sketch maps of the existing site
- Field trips to plant trees with the local MP Meg Hillier on Mabley Green
- Nature walk through Wick woodland, identifying trees, shrubs, and birds
- Visit Hackney Marshes Tree Nursery to create a mini-beast wood pile and plant bulbs



- *"During our trip to the marshes we found lots of interesting things and saw lots of beautiful trees."*
- *"We saw gulls, Canada geese, mallards, greylag geese, and coots on the canal."*
- *"We had great fun, I enjoyed it so much! Our project is about planting."*
- *"I liked the trees. Everybody enjoyed the whole of the beautiful nature trip."*

- Visit to Hackney Marshes Tree Nursery to create a mini-beast wood pile and plant bulbs



- *"We had fun at the tree nursery, we looked at how we can plant vegetables, trees and bulbs."*



- *"We made a log pile using a wheelbarrow. It is for worms and snails because they look after the plants and the soil."*

**March 28<sup>th</sup> 2006** - During science week, as part of the project several children from years 3 and 4 each planted a tree (holly, hawthorn and dog-rose) for a new hedge in the school garden.



- *"Our project is about helping with the environment."*

#### Additional Reading:

Permaculture - A Beginner's Guide - Graham Burnett 2002, Permaculture Association (Britain)  
Permaculture 1 & 2; Permaculturers Design Manual - Bill Mollison & Dave Holmgren, Tagar