

Garden Journal Autumn Term One

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The grass area in the allotment garden has been left to grow long this year. It has been full of wildflowers including Willowherb, which the Elephant Hawkmoth caterpillar loves to eat!

Autumn Wildlife at POW

We have been delighted to record many different pollinators in the grounds of POW this autumn.

We think that our increase in habitats this year has definitely had a positive effect!



This Elephant Hawk Moth Caterpillar was found by the shed in the allotment garden, where it was eating Willowherb. It was huge, measuring approximately 11cm long!



White Ermine Moth Caterpillar- these were abundant in the dead hedge of the allotment garden.



These are Ladybird larvae, which were found feeding on the blackfly covering some of our sweetcorn crop.



This is a Knot Grass moth caterpillar found while we were digging over a flowerbed in the year 4 garden.



Grasshopper on the Lavender in the allotment garden. The grasshoppers have really been enjoying the long grass in this garden.



Speckled Wood butterfly feeding on the blackberry bushes surrounding the school grounds.



Cabbage White caterpillars feeding on the Nasturtiums in the allotment garden. We grew the Nasturtiums as a sacrificial crop to attract the caterpillars away from other vegetables. The cabbage white caterpillars are a good food source for other insects such as ground beetles, parasitic wasps and shield bugs.

Harvest Time- plot to plate

We have enjoyed harvesting many crops this autumn!



We grew Tomatillos and Aubergines both inside the polytunnel and outside in the allotment garden.

Logan and Owen's dad is from Columbia and he said that Tomatillos grow wild there. He was very excited to taste them and they reminded him of the Columbian countryside.



This year we experimented with growing Butternut Squash in dustbins as we had run out of large pots. It worked well but they needed a lot of watering.

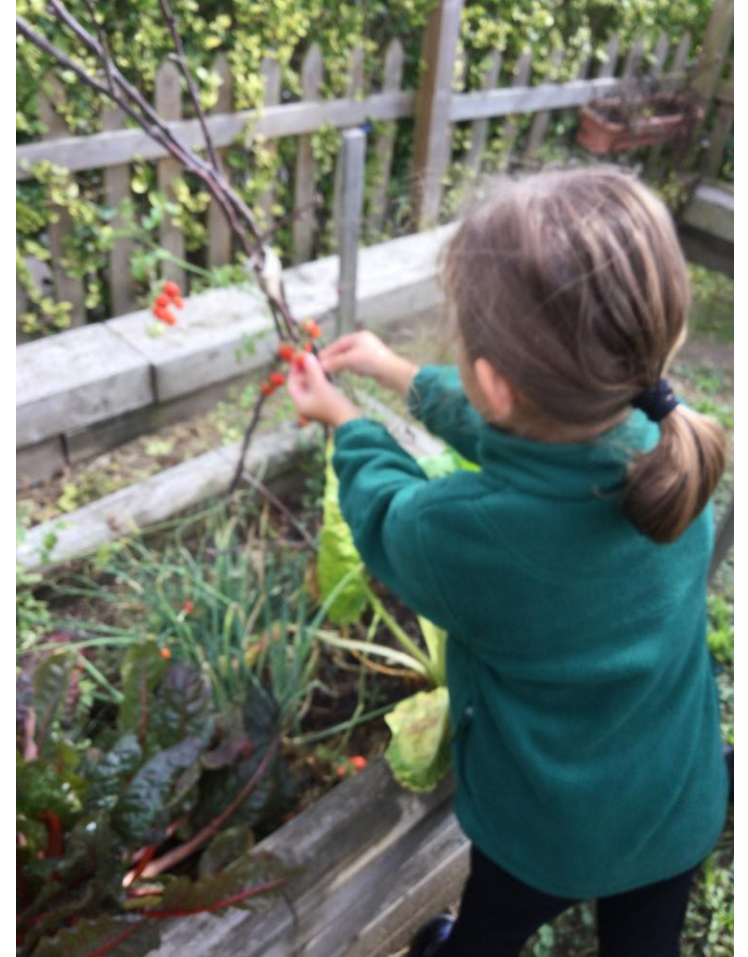
We also grew courgettes, runner beans and winter quash called 'Hubbard'.



The flowers on the left are called Helichrysum or sometimes strawflowers. They feel very papery to the touch and they can be picked and dried for display.

The Marigolds on the right are a companion plant in the vegetable garden as they deter pests with their smell.

2M Picking tomatoes in the community garden





Our tomato crop was HUGE!



Our chef Jenny used the tomatoes to stock our salad bar. The children thought that the tomatoes tasted very sweet!

Saving Seeds and why it's so important

The children have been harvesting and saving seeds this autumn. As well as saving us money, the seeds have adapted to our soil conditions, so the plants we grow from them next year should do really well.



Adding Wildlife Habitats to POW



In our efforts to increase pollinators and birds at POW, we are continuing to add dead hedges to each garden.

These provide great hiding places and shelter for over-wintering insects and birds.

They also help us dispose of woody waste in an environmentally friendly way.

Reception Visit



Children in reception were keen to learn about where and how pumpkins grow as part of their topic this term. They came to see pumpkins and squashes growing in the allotment garden.



The children enjoyed the wildlife trail we have made by creating a natural grass path and recycled wood fence.



We looked at the seeds that pumpkins have inside them.
The children were very inquisitive about our water butts, so we explained how they collect rainwater and we turned on the tap to show them how the water comes out.

Transforming the Year 2 Garden



We are working really hard to transform the year 2 garden. This term a team of volunteers visited to help clear the garden of weeds and membrane. We then managed to build a raised bed area for the children to grow crops in next year. We are continuing to develop the garden by adding central paths for access using recycled edging.



Celebrating Harvest Festival Time

Ailon and Aston created a wonderful piece of harvest artwork which they showed at our Harvest assembly, celebrating our plot-to-plate approach to gardening.



Community gardening Club

This term we have enjoyed lots of garden-themed craft activities, as well as planting crops ready for next spring.



Nature windows

Sensory playdough decorations made with rosemary and lavender



Conker hedgehogs



Leaf lanterns



The parents and children worked hard in the community garden to clear out old crops and weeds. They then planted garlic and onions which will grow over the winter months.





The children and parents had lots of fun carving pumpkins in our last gardening club of the year!

Receiving our GOLD award at Enfield in Bloom with the parents and children from PoW Community Gardening Club

