

The cLc Learning Platform is supporting teaching and improving learning outcomes in schools around the world. These Best Practice examples enable teachers to share experiences, ideas and recommendations to support and aid other teachers tackling the same challenges.

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School: Grappenhall Heys Primary School	LA: Warrington
Teacher: Matt Boot / Naomi Ottiwell	Students: Year 6
Contact: mattboot@googlemail.com	
Learning Focus: To encourage parents to extend learning opportunities for children around the community.	
Curriculum Focus: Extra Curricular activities	
Tools used:  Forum	



Grappenhall Heys Primary School > Children's Work > Year 6 >
My time in Year 6 - Garden Project Group

Garden Project Group
Mrs Ottiwell 07 Nov 2008 15:12

This garden project will be used to help plan the new garden built adjacent to the adventure playground and the seating area.

We have already measured the irregular octagon that is this area(!) and we now need to look at the other requirements for the garden.

These are:

- Wheel chair access - Bethany can you get onto this and look at dimensions of a wheel chair and how much room there would need to be to accommodate this around each of the beds.
- Shed - the plan is to have a shed com potting shed - Robert / Lewis could you look into this. Friends have said that a 14ft by 10ft shed would be good. You will need to research and cost shed and greenhouses - what is the best (and cheapest) option so that we can plant seeds and store tools? Create a spreadsheet / document with costs of different options and supplier options. I know Robert that you said that you couldn't find a shed that big - are we better to go with a smaller green house and shed?
- Railway sleepers - Alex / Lewis you wanted to look at this. Check out the dimensions (report back on this) and look at a variety of ways of creating the beds - think about the finish and size. Friends have said that they want them 3 sleepers deep and there needs to be 6 beds. For each of your options, work out how many sleepers would be needed. I will look into suppliers.
- Compost area - I will bring in a possible photo of an option. Bethany could you also look up the option of buying a ready made compost heap - how much will this cost / size?

If you could make a start on this that would be great. Please reply back to me via this discussion forum and I will keep in touch with you over the weekend and next week. When you have designed your possible beds, try them on our scale drawing and try to photograph or photocopy the different options.

Thank guys, good luck.

Info	Post
Robert Farrell 08 Nov 2008 11:32 Post 1	<p>Garden project</p> <p>I have found a few sheds that are 14ft by 10 ft but im not sure that there so good. My mum has told me about a construction group that are doing work for her school and theyre really good. They will build literally anything for you for a cheaper price than in the shops. The construction site is called stamper construction but i cant find there website so feel free to look in about it ! Do you need the sheds for storage as well as the plant pots ? I definitely think we should have a 14ft by 10 ft shed though. Do we need a greenhouse or a shed for storage or both ?</p> <p>Ive found a shed that looks perfect for us - except from the size. It is 16ft by 8ft with a free shed alarm for it at busyshedsdirect.co.uk. It costs £764.99. Im not sure whether it includes the construction though. What do you think about it ?</p>

How this worked in practice: The school's Parent/ Teacher Association had raised funds to enhance the outdoor environment, and the School Council had decided that a gardening area was one of the key priorities. Gifted and Talented mathematicians in Year 6 were given the task of designing a garden adjacent to their playground, within parameters of accessibility, usability, maintenance and budget. The teacher who was leading supporting the children in their planning engaged the children through the learning platform  forum to consider, respond to, and resolve a range of related challenges. The children recorded their progress on the  forum, both during school and as apart of their homework. The teacher responsible for the project only works at the school part time, so she used the children's posts on the  forum to keep up to date with their work and to offer further guidance. This use of the  forum as a place to think, reflect, democratically decide and track offline/outdoor learning activities extended the learning beyond the practical activities to the conceptual life-skill aspects of such tasks that children need to learn to become effective lifelong learners.

By the end of this sequence of work children had developed skills in:
Literacy: Question & Answer, Persuasion, Chronological Reflection, Debate

Next Steps: The children could create links between their class area and their  eportfolio homepage in order to suggest  resources and  links to support photographs of their practical activities, learning journal  blogs reflecting their personal learning experience within this, and to showcase their collective achievements.