

# Berrywood:

## A School within a Garden

The summer term brings us plentiful opportunities to immerse ourselves in our environment. The 'School within a Garden' ethos is woven throughout our curriculum to provide all with the time to think critically, be creative, consider the impact of human behaviours on our environment and to ultimately have fun outdoors. Already this term, our Year 5's have been raving about their experiences at the pond as well as using the grounds as part of their 'What on Earth' hook event; Year 1 have embraced outdoor learning in their 'Let it Grow' project by exploring the minibeasts in our environment and creating bug hotels; Year 3 are busy planning an investigation into our immediate environments and Year 4 are investigating natural dying and weaving in art. The Market team are busier than ever; Summer Fayre preparations are well under way and the allotments are flourishing.

It is an exciting, and busy, time to be in school!

BERRYWOOD MARKET DAYS



Saturday 24th June  
12:00pm - 3:00pm

**SAVE THE DATE**

### Gardening sustainably at Berrywood...

We are currently in the exciting process of rejuvenating our flower beds around the school, embracing a polyculture system known as Fruit Tree Guilds. These are simply planting schemes in which fruit trees act as the centrepieces for each 'guild' or group of plants.

One of the key ideas in polycultures is sustainability, taking nature as its inspiration. Wild habitats are self-supporting, naturally recycling essential nutrients and requiring no external inputs. Fruit Tree Guilds make the most of natural resources such as water, sunlight and nutrients and each plant is chosen to play a role from which all the other plants benefit. At Berrywood, we have been working hard to garden sustainably. Thus, the waste from our breaktime fruit snacks is turned into compost to enrich our soils. Recently, we lopped our willow trees to allow more light into our allotment area; we've used the woodchips produced to further improve our compost. We are also collecting rainwater from our greenhouses to water our plants with unchlorinated water.

Want to make your own gardening more sustainable? Why not do a bit of research on polycultures and see what marvellous, nature-friendly ideas you can uncover.

By Mr Roy



### How does our Science curriculum link to our 'School within a Garden'?

Our 'School within a Garden' opens a wide variety of opportunities to allow all our pupils to explore the awe and wonder of the natural world and the Science within it. Through key questioning and purposeful first-hand exploration in our local environment our pupils' are able to gain a deeper knowledge and understanding of Scientific concepts and knowledge of the processes that sustain life. We are extremely fortunate to have School grounds that provide a rich diversity of environments with a pond, woodland, urban garden, allotment and flower beds. The pupils learn about different habitats and the species within them. They are able to investigate how these environments can evolve and change over time through our Longitudinal studies and how they themselves can make a positive impact to develop these areas further.

Through our Science and Longitudinal sessions, pupils get to witness first hand, how animals survive in our local environment. They can identify and observe for themselves different animals within our school grounds from birds, amphibians and a wealth of mini-beasts to name but a few. They can investigate and compare different life cycles, exploring how these animals move and survive as well the food that they eat. They build up their knowledge of food chains and develop their critical thinking of what the impact would be if part of this food chain disappeared. The pupils learn the delicate balance of nature; seeing it in action can be awe inspiring and helps them to understand more clearly how plants and animals are dependent on one another for survival. As the pupils take ownership of their local environment and become familiar with the plants and species around them, they learn about what plants need to grow and how to care for them. This knowledge culminates in an exciting array of fruit, vegetables, flowering plants and habitats for the pupils and animals to enjoy.

From Year R to Year 6 the pupils learn how our 'School within our garden' changes with the seasons and how new life begins in Spring, whether it be plants blossoming, caterpillars transforming into butterflies or chicks hatching it brings the magic of Science to life.

By Mrs Hampson

# Berrywood Market

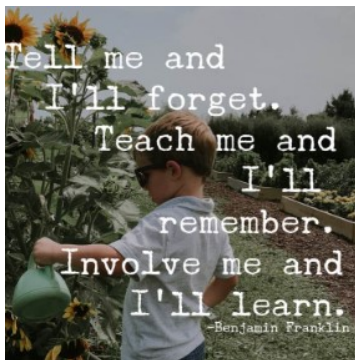
Our previous market was a huge success...



What it is like to be a Berrywood Market day vendor  
Hello, my name is ... and I am writing an article about the day. There were many products sold to people but I took on the job of giving out cakes and biscuits. My favourite products were the apple and blackberry flapjacks. They smell amazing and they were exactly that. My stall also sold beetroot brownie, artisan bread rolls, iced shortbread biscuits, Berrywood chutney and Berrywood marmalade. One thing I would like to sell in the future is Berrywood jam, strawberry, cherry or raspberry. The skills you need for market days are politeness, being able to count money, teamwork and being able to speak in front of everybody.  
Thank you for reading this article,

By a Year 4 pupil who attends Market

- What can you expect to see at the next Market?
- Herb pots
  - Sausage rolls
  - Muffins
  - Lanterns
  - Sunflower plants
  - Fresh produce
  - Printed flower bookmarks
  - Picture frames using natural resources
  - 'Pescari'- a handmade fishing game
  - Lots of delicious tray bakes!



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The passionate team who provide expertly led, personalised sessions, allow all children in their groups to thrive, learn new skills and feel empowered. Every product made has a tangible link to our school grounds whether that be produce in our cooking, repurposed wood in our bee hotels or natural resources gathered for decorations and ornaments. The children then have the responsibility of setting up the markets, calculating costings, organising signage and being on the front line of customer interactions.

# Behind the scenes...

Before....



Extensive work has been completed in our allotment area in order to improve the levels of light and growing spaces. This included the lowering of the canopy, reusing the chippings to create pathways and the lopping of the perimeter trees.

After...



The Market team have worked tirelessly to organise, tidy and prepare additional learning areas for the children to utilise to their fullest potential during their time in Market...



## Get Involved!

Are you a budding gardener or someone who enjoys tackling a new project? We are looking for volunteers to help us maintain and develop our school gardens. Please contact Mrs Woods, via the school office, if you would like to join our school within a garden community. We look forward to hearing from you.



BERRYWOOD MARKET DAYS



A produce only market...  
Monday 17th July  
3:00pm

**SAVE THE DATE**