



CHATHAM SCHOOL WINS GROWN IN KENT COMPETITION

The Kent County Agricultural Society successfully launched an exciting new project Grown in Kent earlier this year. The initiative was to encourage school age children to grow a variety of produce. Roger Moore, Executive Manager said “Kent is known as ‘The Garden of England’ and has a wonderful heritage of horticulture. To encourage a love of growing early in life will allow a child to get a real sense of where food comes from.” This year a good number of schools entered the competition, All Saints CEP School in Chatham won with an impressive £99.99 worth of produce. Second place was Mereworth Primary School with £85.95 produce recorded. Third place was taken by Teynham Primary with an impressive £62.59.

Each of the participating schools was able to download a comprehensive resources pack with everything needed to start growing produce. The fruit and vegetables listed had a harvest value, which the schools weighed and recorded. The values were then verified by the Headteacher and a School Governor.

The winning School was provided with tickets for the Allotment Club members to come to the Kent County Show in July where Society Chairman, George Jessel, DL presented All Saints Church of England Primary with a Prize Card and Rosette.

On Monday 19th September, Roger Moore, Kent County Agricultural Society

Executive Manager was invited to the School to formally hand the students an engraved trophy and certificate of achievement.

Mrs. Lesley Fielding and the after school Allotment Club were presented with the trophy at their morning assembly. All Saints have had a substantial growing area a short walk from the school site for three years. All pupils at the School have lessons when appropriate at the allotment. The next group to use the facilities will collect fruit and vegetables to make fabric dye as part of their Anglo Saxon studies. The Allotment Club meets each Thursday after school to tend the area, which has reached RHS Benchmark Scheme Level 5 and supports over 100 varieties of fruit and vegetables. Recently they have added a wildlife garden and dipping pond to the allotment area, which has proved to be a valuable resource for the school.

Mrs Fielding was delighted to accept the award on behalf of all the pupils at All Saints CEP School. This week the children had been harvesting leeks, carrots, kohlrabi and beans which were going to be used at the after school cookery club.

During peak harvesting produce is sold to raise funds for a school they support in India. Lesley Fielding explained “this project would not be possible without the support of the parents who help tend the crops particularly over the summer break. Some of them have even taken their own allotment on the site to continue growing produce even after their children have left the School.”

The Kent County Agricultural Society believes that every child should be given the chance to garden and to ensure that they grow up with a love of learning, a strong grasp of essential life skills and robust physical and emotional health.

Roger Moore, Executive Manager at the Kent Showground said “we are looking

forward to even more schools taking part next year. All a school needs is a small amount of space and a passion to grow fresh food.”

www.growninkent.co.uk

For more details contact Roger Moore, Kent County Agricultural Society

01622 630975 or email info@kentshowground.CO.UK