

## **The School Garden**

Gardening is in full swing thanks to the lovely sunshine!!! The garden looks so pretty at the moment with an array of gorgeous Spring flowers: daffodils, tulips, cowslips and wild garlic. Take a minute to go and have a look at our beautiful space, we are so lucky to have it!

This week the children are going to be pond dipping, we are very fortunate to have thousands of tadpoles and other pond creatures in our beautiful pond. Keep a lookout for emerging damselflies (a little bit smaller than a dragonfly).

The children will also be sowing sweetcorn, courgette, pumpkin & cucamelon (gooseberry sized cucumbers which have a delicious lime taste!).

We want to get composting too by reinstating our Wormery. These clever little worms eat all the veg peelings that we feed them and in return make a wonderful compost that is rich in nutrients and feeds our vegetables that we are growing.

Last autumn, the children planted onions, garlic & broad beans in the growing beds outside. I am pleased to report that these are growing well. We also have potatoes growing outside the classrooms and in the school garden.

We are charging £1 per family for the after school club, this will allow us to buy more seed, plants etc.

The exciting news is that the chickens are returning to the St Mark's community! Look out for them over the next few weeks.

 After school Gardening Club Wednesday 3.30 – 4.30pm – for a variety of gardening activities you can do with your child. £1 per family

Parents/Carers, can you spare an hour on Wednesday lunchtimes? We would love your help in the garden. We are very lucky to have our two loyal volunteers Denise Ward and David Charie but we always need more help. Come and join the team, learn to grow your own and share some fun.

No experience necessary. Please speak to Karen in the office if you are interested.

**LOOK OUT FOR:** tadpoles, damselflies, chickens and lots more!

See you in the garden soon,

Caroline