

St Philip's Grow Club

We have been running the Grow Club since April 2025. We have weekly sessions with a group of about 15 children in the school allotment which comprises of three raised beds. Each week, different children attend our Grow Club and I lead the sessions with the help of a volunteer from Arundel Green Team and a classroom assistant. To date, children from Reception to Year 4 have attended our sessions.

For the first few weeks, the children learned how to sow seeds and helped to sow them in modular trays. They took the trays away and were in charge of looking after them in their classroom, placing them on the window sill and watering them regularly. They looked after the plants really well and the results were amazing; we had healthy looking plants to grow in the allotment area.

Once the seeds germinated and were ready to be planted, the children learned how to plant them in the allotment and how to look after them. They also helped to water the plants, which they really loved, specially during the hot weather.

Once the plants have grown, we had the first harvest on 3rd July, a large box full of radish which some kids attempted to eat straight away. They all loved to harvest the radish.

On 10th July we planted the sunflowers which the reception year had grown from seeds and they also learned to harvest peas and lettuce. Again, harvesting the produce was their favourite activity.

On 17th July, I intend to show them how to harvest carrots and pumpkin and plant the last remaining tomatoes which they have grown from seeds. We hope that some of the produce will last until they are back at the school in September and it would be nice to have a big picnic harvest with the children.

The children are always excited and willing to participate in the activities, which is really rewarding. We also managed to do a few activities with a selected group, which involved placing an ink tunnel trap for mammals which attracted a few animals and a reptile refugia which attracted a slow worm. Unfortunately, the slow worm was very quick to 'escape' and not everyone managed to see it....

