

"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches

## <u>Brampton CE Primary School – Summer 2021 Newsletter</u>

The Association of Brampton, Bramfield and Ringsfield CE Primary Schools have been looking at ways to take the curriculum outside the classroom. With the Covid pandemic we have become increasingly aware of the importance of physical and emotional wellbeing. Therefore we have taken a holistic view of all the environments available for the children to provide opportunities for learning beyond the classroom.

## **Growing our Christmas dinner**

This year the children are taking the responsibility to grow vegetables for our Christmas dinner. Working with our outdoor learning coordinator, we are encouraging the children to learn about the science of plants and develop self-confidence through enjoying the food they have grown.



## Taking the stage

We have created areas in our outdoor spaces for children to perform. Children have enjoyed reading to their peers, performing music concerts and taking to the stage to share their achievements. The provision of the outdoor stage area has enabled parents/carers to join us in celebrating children's achievements. Our teachers believe that outdoor stages have helped our children to develop confidence and self-esteem.



## **Acorn Planning**

When planning, teachers have been using a symbol of an acorn to represent possible opportunities for taking the learning outside the classroom. Some examples where learning has been taken outside of the classroom are: practising times-tables, exploring transformations, position, properties of materials and keeping healthy.

Since starting the outdoor learning initiative, children have reported that they are enjoying learning more. In a recent curriculum perception report one child stated that, 'Outdoor learning allows us to learn whilst also being in tune with nature.'



This is the first term of an outdoor learning focus however we have found that it has supported us in developing our curriculum drivers (engagement, curiosity and enjoyment) whilst also helping children with their mental wellbeing. Next year we will continue to work with our community to develop our school environment and increase opportunities for outdoor learning. Recently a sponsored walk brought in over £700 to help develop our spiritual garden and create extra seating areas. Also volunteers have been helping us to clear overgrown areas; cut back trees and provide materials for our bug hotel.