



Hammersmith Community Gardens Schools Newsletter Winter/Spring Term 2016

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We got off to a flying start this year when **HCGA staff** teamed up with **The House of Fairytales** to deliver a day long CPD session at **Ark Franklin School** in Brent. We are working with them on an on-going basis to develop a new outdoor classroom. The aim of the day was to inspire teachers.



What we can offer

- A weekly school gardening programme in your school, including a lunchtime or after school club.
- Arrange one off visits to our sites at the glasshouses in Ravenscourt Park and Phoenix School Farm.
- Training for your staff team, either through joining one of our generic half day sessions (see below for more details) or a bespoke session for your whole staff team, this can be delivered at your site or as a visit to our project.

- We are also happy to offer a free initial visit to discuss how your site can be enhanced to deliver learning outside the classroom.
- We work with children of all ages from Pre Schools and Nurseries to Post 16.



Professional Tour

If you would be interested in visiting our sites and finding out more about HCGA's Schools Programme you are welcome to join our upcoming Professional Tour on **Friday 5th February** or **Wednesday 9th March**. We will be starting at our main site, the **Glasshouses in Ravenscourt Park** and then visiting the award winning **Phoenix School Farm**. To book or for more information please email info@hcg.org.uk .

Networking for Science Co-ordinators

Thursday 14th April, 4-5pm

Ravenscourt Park Glasshouses

A networking opportunity for Science Coordinators - discussion and refreshments in the beautiful surroundings of the glasshouses in Ravenscourt Park.

CPD Training Sessions

We are offering 3 half day training sessions this term that are open to all teachers and support staff.

Get Ready for the New Growing Season

Wednesday 24th February, 9.30am - 1pm

Phoenix School Farm

We will focus on plant propagation from seeds, and other methods of propagation, basic cuttings, etc , indoor and direct sowing, successional sowing and also looking at using different containers, e.g., peas in guttering, potatoes in sacks, newspaper pots etc, and getting the most out of raised beds.

The Outdoor Classroom & the Early Years Curriculum

Monday 7th March, 1-4pm

Ravenscourt Park Glasshouses

This session will focus on activities that are suitable for nursery and Key Stage 1 children and include literacy links.



Plant Magic

Friday 18th March, 1-4pm

Ravenscourt Park Glasshouses

Discover how to use plants in the greenhouses and Ravenscourt Park to bring the primary science curriculum alive. Hands-on activities and discussion.

Each session cost £30 For more details or to book a place a either workshop please email bookings@hcg.org.uk



Corporate Team Volunteering

If your school has a larger task that could be presented a 1 or 2 day challenge to a corporate team from a local company do get in touch as we are receiving requests from companies all the time.



HCGA promotes corporate team building days and receives lots of requests from local companies wanting to give something back to their local communities. If this is something that your school would benefit from please get in touch. HCGA will co-ordinate the activities, which could include maintenance or creation for wildlife areas, making raised beds of plots for food growing, arrange for the purchase of any materials, and have a member of staff available to lead the session.

Kensington and Chelsea Food Growing Project

HCGA is continuing to work with schools in Kensington and Chelsea. In November the Mayor visited St Mary's school to open an extension of the garden. He was presented with a

vegetable bouquet from plants grown at Phoenix School Farm. The school are looking forward to a productive growing season in 2016.



We are also working on a regular basis with Bevington , Barlbly and Ashburnham schools and can provide advice and support to other schools in the borough.

This project is being run in association with Hammersmith and Fulham Urban Studies Centre and is being co-ordinated by [Royal Borough Environmental Project Team \(RBEP\)](#) contact Terry.Oliver@rbkc.gov.uk for more information. We are also currently working in 2 schools in Westminster, King Solomon and Gateway Academies. If we are not working with your school we are happy to provide an initial visit and consultation free of charge

USEFUL WEBSITES and RESOURCES

This year we will be creating another Shelf Life display at both the glasshouses and the farm. This project originally developed by the education team at Chelsea Physic Garden is and a great way of showing where our food comes from and is ideal if you have limited space -

<http://chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk/learning/shelf-life/>

Another good project if you have limited space, which relates to the maths curriculum is Square Foot Gardening, which enables a range of vegetables to be grown in a limited space -

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Square_foot_gardening



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