

The Kitchen Garden

Beginning



It's the beginning of March 2022, and the Gardening Club members have started holding regular meetings. We are discussing what we want to plant this year.



Unfortunately, oranges and bananas cannot grow in our climate, and apple trees take a few years to bear fruit. However, there are many other plants we can choose from.



Since it's our first time planting anything, we've decided to start with something easy.

Our initial choices include runner beans, cucumbers, sweet peas, strawberries, and perhaps some pretty flowers.

In April, the plants took over our windowsills as we diligently cared for them.



Not all of the seedlings survived the half-term holidays, but the remaining ones have grown really well.

At this point, we established Water Monitors and agreed on a schedule.



It's Spring, so the Gardening Club is monitoring the playground and looking for the best place to establish raised beds.

The spot needs to be sunny, protected from strong winds, out of the way of running children and easily accessible. We should ask our Caretaker for some advice.



In early May we started taking our seedlings outside, which is called hardening.

At the beginning of the process, we only took the "babies" for 10-15 minutes when we were going for our morning break or lunch. Then, we gradually started leaving the plants outside for longer.



Unfortunately, cold wind damaged some of the fragile tomatoes and beans. We need to be more careful next time!





From the 10th May we were monitoring weather forecasts to know when we can transplant our window garden outside.



As the days were getting longer and nights warmer, the first plants were happily taken outdoors to grow in their raised beds.



Onions, garlic, marigolds and calendulas will be transferred first. We are not quite sure about the cucumbers, so one pot will go out and the other will stay indoors for one more week. This way, we can avoid complete catastrophe if the temperature drops.



After 15th May the temperature at night is predicted to be above 9 degrees Celsius, so our tomatoes and runner beans should be safe to grow outside. Especially, that their pots became too small and roots need more space to grow. Our No-dig beds are ready! Thank you, ladies, from Good Gym for your help.

[GoodGym Windsor and Maidenhead - Best Laid Plan-ters Part II](#)

No-dig is the approach to gardening promoted by Charles Dowding, an organic gardener from Somerset.

He says "No dig method allows you to grow masses of healthy, nutritious food. More easily than with traditional digging".

[Charles Dowding: Home](#)



Mulching and not disturbing the soil has many benefits, such as fewer weeds growing, less compacted soil and stronger, healthier plants. Our beds need some mulch, then. The soil must not be bare, it needs to be always covered either by growing or decaying plants.

There is some space left between the plants. What would you recommend covering it with?