

# Food Growing In Leicester

A celebration of local community growing projects

## Kestrels' Field Primary School



Before

**K**estrels' Fields school is a primary school in Hamilton, Leicester. The school has two sites. The Conservation Volunteers worked with the site that had children aged up to 7 years old. The school is part of the Food for Life programme and wanted to establish their food growing garden and sensory outdoor play areas.

### Community Day

A Community Day was organised and appeals were sent to parents, friends and local companies for resources. Donations of tools and seeds were received, and the school caretaker made two raised beds. The Friends of Kestrel Group donated £100 and this was used to buy ready-made beds. They also managed to get a compost bin and Tesco (who have a large superstore close by) donated potting compost and seeds.



After

During the Community Day the school had a steady stream of parents, grand-parents and children that all helped to grow vegetables. Together they dug out a bed for the broad beans that the children had been growing and created a support structure for these. They filled the raised beds with the donated topsoil (children love barrowing soil) and kept one covered in mulch to wait for tomatoes and basil that would be planted out later in the year.

They also planted onion sets in another raised bed and potatoes in sacks, flowers and lettuces in the pallet beds made by Ian, the caretaker. They bought in plants at various stages of development so that they could be shown at different stages of vegetable growing – seed sowing, potting on and planting out.

### Next steps

This project continues to inspire young children to grow their own food, spend time educational time outdoors and eat healthily.