The Dandelion Project

This year Ratho Primary are taking part in the Dandelion School Growing Initiative – the Big Tattie Experiment, a countrywide spud growing spectacular – which is Scotland's largest ever community growing initiative.

We will join a nationwide experiment into how traditional growing methods compare with 21st-century techniques to shape the food production of the future.

The programme is delivered in partnership with the charity Keep Scotland Beautiful, who promote education initiatives that focus on environmental issues. The project will enhance our children's Learning for Sustainability curriculum as well as linking into out Eco Schools programme of activities.

Pupils, families and members of our community have the opportunity to **grow potatoes** with a view to harvesting them in September and then **creating a potato-based dish to share at our Harvest Festival on Friday 9th September**. We will share our learning, some lunch and possibly some musical entertainment at our festival! We have the opportunity to learn and share some newly commissioned songs written in both English and Scots!

We have been given a large stock of seed potatoes and compost to distribute to the school community, all **free** of charge! We will also distribute a helpful guide to growing your potatoes!

If you would like to take part in this amazing opportunity, I will be on hand to distribute the potatoes and compost this **Friday afternoon (6th May**) from **12.30 until 2.00 pm** and next week **(w/b 9th May**) after school from **3.15 pm until 4.30 pm Mon – Wed and again on the Fri afternoon (13th May).**

The potatoes can be grown in any large bag/sack/tub/pot, as well as in any spare ground in your garden. If you do not have access to any of these I will have bags and a few containers to take away with you! Bring down your wheelbarrow if it will be easier!

If none of the above times are suitable, please contact me directly via the admin account through the school, and I will make arrangements for you to access the potatoes and compost at another time.

There is also an exciting opportunity to access free plug plants as part of the growing initiative at **Lauriston Farm on Sunday 10th July between 1 – 4pm.**

(access the link for details: https://dandelion.scot/whats-on/free-for-alls-lauriston-farm-edinburgh/)

Please join us in this fabulous planting and growing opportunity.

Kind regards,

Gillian Brown

P1 Teacher and Eco/Sustainability Lead.