

## School Garden Grant Case Study

School: Sudbourne School, Lambeth

Type of School: Community primary

Amount Received: £2,600

### Before the project



### After the project





### Project aims

Our vision was to bring the farmyard to our school by keeping hens. First we had to clear the space of a very stubborn tree trunk and ivy, build a fox and rat-proof cage with a coop and to provide the best possible environment in which to raise chickens. We then had to keep their food and bedding in waterproof, rat-proof containers as well as source the best flooring for the inside of the cage.

Our aim was for the children to witness the whole lifecycle of a chicken, from the hatching of the egg, development from chick to adult egg laying hen. We achieved this by buying in services to provide 10 eggs, an incubator and a brooder box so that the children could watch the chickens being born and raised.

### Key project data

- Children : 350 (every child has been involved in the project)
- Volunteers : 18 parents (cleared up the space)
- Teachers and support staff : 9 (caring for the chicks at weekends, general chicken duties)

### Project success and impact

The chickens have had a huge impact on everyone in the school. There was such excitement as they hatched and started to develop. The chicks did a weekly tour of all the classes for the first 6 weeks, provoking discussion about animal welfare, habitat, flight as well as learning to handle them.

Next term, once they are laying, we will be doing a whole school topic on lifecycles, nutrition, nurture, hygiene and some cooking with the eggs. The children will continue to be chicken monitors, collecting leftovers from lunch to feed them with.

### Quotes from pupils

#### Year 3 children:

*"They have been kind to us and let lots of people look at them and they weren't scared"*

*"They are cuddly because their fur is soft"*

*"I have learned that the boy chicks are yellow and the girl chicks are brownny-yellow"*

#### Year 4 children:

*"(chickens are) Cool, not all schools have the chance. We love to learn about animals."*

*"They inspire cool hairstyles and encourage you to have a pet of your own encouraging responsibility."*

*"I think it's a great thing to have chickens at school because they lay eggs which we love to eat"*

*"Chickens are brill because they are fun to look after"*

**Quotes from teachers**

*"The chicks have been a wonderful addition to Sudbourne School! The children have been enthused and excited to watch the process from egg to chicken and it has been lovely to watch their caring and nurturing side emerge as they have observed and handled the chicks. The chicks' presence at school has also been a brilliant springboard for a whole range of work, from life cycles in science to chick diaries in literacy. The children's motivation towards writing has increased and their creativity has really emerged, imagining what it would be like to be a chick, hatching for the first time!"*

**Quotes from parents/volunteers**

*"Back in February many families helped to clear the area for the cage. It took a lot of hard work but we managed it.*

*My daughter has been really enthusiastic about the chickens and has talked endlessly about them at each stage of the project. She was chosen to be the chicken monitor for her class and could barely contain her excitement! Projects like this are so important. The children see a life-cycle and gain a greater understanding and respect towards animals and the wider school community can contribute their skills, get to know other parents and are "taught" about chicken welfare by their children."*

Pauline - parent of year 3 child