

## Hitherfield Primary School, Lambeth

**Hitherfield Edible Playground** was opened with a grand celebration in October 2014, where Chris Collins (former Blue Peter gardener, a School Food Plan Ambassador and a Patron of TFC) ran planting workshops with the school council to plant a fruit tree for each class.



Hitherfield has recently grown to accommodate 700 children and the school was keen to use of its grounds to ensure they provide the space and resources for the children to play and learn. They consulted with the school community, which highlighted strong interest in food-growing, fitting closely with the school's ambition to introduce the growing and cooking of food into the curriculum for every age group.

*"I have grown potatoes and carrots. The carrots were the best I have ever eaten and we took them straight from the ground." Yr 4 pupil*

The Edible Playground includes raised beds filled with plants and vegetables, fruit and nut trees and other edible plants, and an irrigation system. The school also has a greenhouse and composting system, so is now all set up for year-long planting and harvesting. Trees for Cities are supporting the school for a year to help them fully use and maintain the outdoor space as a food-growing and learning resource.

The Edible Playground includes raised beds filled with plants



The project was supported by **Goldman Sachs** and **Marsh UK** among others, who provided financial support and help with the construction through volunteering days.



The school now grows various summer and winter crops and harvests these for use in the school dining hall, as well as using the Edible Playground for teaching science, maths and other subjects.

We are proud that as an outcome of the Edible Playground, Hitherfield has been awarded the status of being a flagship school in the Mayor of London's Flagship Food Borough programme. It also took part in the Streatham Food

Festival with a Herby Bread Day a celebration of good local food. Its Edible Playground will now be used to inspire other schools in Lambeth and across London.

*"Since the start of the Edible Playground the children are far more interested in food and growing." Chris Ashley-Jones, Head teacher*

**Edible Playgrounds** provide the opportunity for children living in urban areas to grow, nurture, harvest, cook and eat fruit and vegetables, and to integrate the outdoor learning into the school curriculum, with benefits to children's health and education. For more information please take a look at our website [www.treesforcities.org](http://www.treesforcities.org) or contact [carys@treesforcities.org](mailto:carys@treesforcities.org)