

St. Paul's Whitechapel Primary School, Tower Hamlets

St Paul's Primary School was unusual among the schools Trees for Cities had worked with, as it already had a small, productive garden, where they grew and maintained plants and herbs.

Located in one of the most deprived wards in the country it was keen to give pupils even more opportunities to grow fruits and vegetables and learn outside. A reading partnership with **Marsh & McLennan Companies (MMC)** brought unexpected benefits when they decided to support Trees for Cities and the school to establish a fully functioning Edible Playground.

Through their support 60 enthusiastic volunteers from MMC were committed to the project and took part in four Planting and Maintenance days at the school; helping to maintain the existing growing areas, preparing new areas for planting, planting raised beds and improving the general appearance of the school. They also re-used the materials they cleared and pruned to create a minibeast hotel. MMC employees were enthusiastic, committed and truly keen to help the children expand their knowledge of food growing.



"The volunteering days were very rewarding and enjoyable. MMC colleagues learned a great deal. It's fantastic that we could expand on our reading partnership with St. Paul's to create a new Edible Playground for the children to use and enjoy." **Jason Groves, Director of Communications International, MMC**



A launch event was held with representatives from MMC, Trees for Cities, parents, children, and governors, bringing the local community together in celebration of the new garden. Guests were taken on a garden tour, entertained with a drumming performance and took part in a Q&A session.

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 or contact carys@treesforcities.org

"We are proud to be working with Trees for Cities on this exciting project. The school provides an ideal environment for educating our children, their families and the local community about the importance of making the right healthy choices in life. We look forward to our first harvest and to producing some amazing, healthy recipes." **Head teacher, Darren Rubin**