

Nether Loirston Growers

We'd like to share Charleston School's experience with their raised bed over the past growing season.



Charleston's Raised Bed Allotment

We are very grateful to Mr Jim Pirie who has taken the time to go along every fortnight to the allotment to tend and nurture our raised bed. Mr Pirie has taken 3 or 4 pupils with him each time he has visited to plant, weed and grow a wide variety of vegetables.

He started in Spring by getting the children to dig over the plot and plant out some seeds, onion sets and potatoes. Other "growers" also donated some of their excess plants which we gratefully received and planted.

Up to the end of the summer term our small group of children returned with Mr Pirie on a regular basis to weed and thin out our crops. Over the summer break he regularly gave up his time to continue to

visit the allotment and tend the plants. We are also grateful to our fellow growers who, with the hot summer, had taken time to continue to water and tend our small patch.

On our return to school in August the children again accompanied Mr Pirie to start our harvest. The first week we had a bumper crop of potatoes, beans and beetroot. Beetroot muffins were baked and beetroot and bean soup made, along with the potatoes being used in some soups too. The following weeks saw turnips, garlic, onions (white and red) and the final harvest was leeks and more turnips.

Our Friday cooking celebration station has had many children enjoying preparing garlic and goats cheese tartlets, soups, leek quiche and haggis neeps and tatties!

The next visit will see Mr Pirie and the children preparing the plot for the winter – digging it over and a general tidy up.

This opportunity to see the vegetables from planting to harvest had been a wonderful learning experience for our group of primary 6 and 7 pupils. The children from P1 – P7 at the cooking station on a Friday have thoroughly enjoyed cooking from scratch with our own home grown produce.

Barbara Gray
Headteacher