



# BECOMING A FORCE FOR NATURE

## Crampton primary school, Southwark, London

Crampton primary school, is a few hundred yards away from the bustling Elephant & castle, Southwark, London. This school was lucky to have an existing orchard of 10 fruit trees within its grounds, planted some ten years previously. However, the member of staff responsible had moved on and the trees were no longer being cared for or used for teaching.

### **Growing connections**

The Orchard Project supported staff to make use of the orchard space as a teaching resource and encourage more child interaction with trees, helping them to develop a sense of wonder and respect for nature and the food it provides. Pruning and mulching was undertaken to restore the trees, with the children themselves learning how to use tools safely and effectively.

The pupils witnessed many exciting natural phenomena when observing their trees more closely, including ants 'farming' aphids, ladybird larvae munching unguarded aphids and batches of ladybird eggs on the underside of apple leaves. They've sampled sweet, medium and sharp single variety apple juice and have learnt about the many different varieties traditionally grown across the British Isles, plotting the origins of each on a map.

**Sharing and caring** Before the 2017 summer holidays they celebrated their orchard space as a place to enjoy and relax, learning about the importance of trees in the city while enjoying summer fruit kebabs under the canopy shade (whilst temperatures soared to over 30 degrees!). In October they celebrated National Apple Day; harvesting their trees, participating in fruity games and pressing fresh apple juice with a traditional press.



Thanks to support from our key partners Learning through landscapes and The Orchards Project.

[ltl.org.uk](http://ltl.org.uk), [theorchardproject.org.uk](http://theorchardproject.org.uk), [treecouncil.org.uk](http://treecouncil.org.uk)



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## Top tips:

- Planning your orchard sessions straight after break time or lunch and having a stated meeting point at or near the orchard can help to avoid disruption to other classes
- Designing and making habitats for beneficial predators can be a rich, multi-curricular learning experience that helps to keep your trees happy, helpful and fruitful!
- Carry out a 'skills audit' of the wider school community to see if there are any skilled people who may like to help out with the project.

## Curriculum links box

- Maths & numeracy: Measure the circumference of your fruits as they grow through the season and chart how this changes over time. Use your circumference measurements to estimate volume and weight
- Science: Explore the role and importance of pollinators, and the difference between self-fertile and cross-fertilising fruit varieties
- Literacy: use opportunities for 'real writing' – like instructions for planting and aftercare or requesting support from local businesses
- Technologies: design and make habitat boxes for beneficial predators and attach one to each tree
- Social studies: place different varieties of supermarket-bought fruit on a large world map and explore the concept of food miles. Compare the journey this fruit makes with that of school-grown fruit



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