



Immediate release

Baguley Hall primary school launches the first Edible Playground in Manchester

Pupils from Baguley Hall primary school in Manchester have been given a fantastic opportunity to get growing thanks to players of People's Postcode Lottery.

The charity Trees for Cities has been working with the school to create an edible playground, the first in Manchester, which will be officially opened by the pupils on Tuesday 12th July.

Edible Playgrounds transform school grounds into vibrant outdoor spaces that get children excited about growing and eating healthy food. By growing the food themselves, Edible Playgrounds encourage children to eat healthily from an early age, helping to tackle local and national issues such as obesity, food poverty and lack of access to nature.

Earlier this year, the children from Baguley Hall primary school prepared the soil, began sowing seeds and planting out their seedlings to grow summer salads, tomatoes, peas and green beans ready in time for the summer. They even have an apple orchard and raspberries for a fruitful autumn harvest. They will continue growing crops throughout the whole year.

Kate Bulman, Head of Baguley Hall Primary School said: "This is such an exciting project. In a matter of months a previously underused space in our school has been transformed into a vibrant hub of activity and outdoor learning. The children and staff are full of enthusiasm and the garden has provided a real stimulus for learning across the curriculum. Not only that, it is already providing produce for our kitchen! Salad items have been in our lunchtime salad bar for the last few weeks and we are very excited about our first batch of Baguley Hall home grown tomato salsa".

Trees for Cities not only builds the physical structure (raised beds, greenhouse, compost, irrigation), they work with the whole school community for an entire academic year – children, teachers, parents, governors and caterers to build the capacity of the school to teach through gardening and to embed the learning into the school curriculum.

David Elliott said: "Our Edible Playground community is growing across the country and addresses several key areas of concern around children's health. They teach pupils where food comes from, that healthy food can be the easy choice, in and out of school and encourage physical activity. We have created 40 Edible Playgrounds and with support from players of the People's Postcode Lottery, we are rolling out to other cities – Reading, Liverpool and Sheffield".

Trees for Cities has also formed valuable partnerships with Chefs Adopt a School, whereby chefs work with pupils to cook using the Edible Playground produce and School Food Matters, who support schools to achieve their Food for Life Award.

This project has been kindly supported by Investec Manchester, and Marsh provided volunteer support.

Ends

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Images available upon request

Notes to Editors

Edible Playgrounds transform areas in school grounds into vibrant outdoor spaces that excite and teach children about growing and eating healthy food. By instilling healthy eating habits at an early age, they help tackle obesity, food poverty and lack of access to nature head on, and provide a platform for fun and engaging lessons that support the school curriculum.

Edible Playgrounds is a programme led by Trees for Cities who have been working in schools to plant fruit and nut trees for over 10 years.

An Edible Playground typically includes raised beds, a greenhouse, wormery, fruit trees and an irrigation system.

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www.edibleplaygrounds.org

Baguley Hall Primary School is a larger than average primary in South Manchester. They are hoping that their Edible Playground project will support children with both their academic and personal growth and in developing real life skills. They plan to use their produce in their kitchen, breakfast and after school club and also for extracurricular activities like their cooking club.

Trees for Cities (TfC) is an independent charity, which inspires people to plant and love trees worldwide. Set up in 1993, Trees for Cities' aim is to create social cohesion and beautify our cities through tree planting, community-led design, education and training initiatives in urban areas that need it most.

We manage projects across the UK as well as internationally in cities such as Addis Ababa, Nairobi and Ica. Our work supports urban tree planting initiatives particularly in deprived areas of cities.

Community-led design is an integral part of our landscaping projects. Involving local residents, schools and community groups helps ensure the sustainability of green spaces. www.treesforcities.org

School Food Matters is a registered charity based in London that campaigns for fresh sustainable food in schools and for children to understand where their food comes from. To achieve this SFM listens to schools, parents and children. Together they urge local authorities to improve school meals and to support food education through cooking, growing and links with local farms. <http://www.schoolfoodmatters.com/>

Chefs Adopt a School founded in 1990 by the Royal Academy of Culinary Arts, Adopt a School, which includes Chefs Adopt a School and Hospitality in Schools, is a national charity which teaches children – in a holistic way – about food, cookery food provenance, food growing, healthy eating, nutrition, hygiene, table etiquette and the importance of eating together. Professional Chefs deliver sessions in the classroom which range in content from the four tastes and the five senses, to advanced practical cookery. The charity reaches over 20,000

children every year and we work with primary schools, secondary schools, SEN schools, hospital schools, pupil referral units, sports centres and food festivals. We believe that every child should be taught about the importance of food and the significance it has in our lives. <http://www.chefsadoptaschool.org.uk/>

About People's Postcode Lottery

- People's Postcode Lottery is a charity lottery. Players play with their postcodes to win cash prizes while raising money for charities and good causes across Great Britain and globally
- People's Postcode Lottery is an External Lottery Manager and manages multiple society lotteries promoted by different causes supporting a range of good causes. For details on which society lottery is running each week, visit www.postcodelottery.co.uk/society
- Postcode Lottery Limited is regulated by the Gambling Commission under certificate nr 829-N-102511-009 and 829-R-102513-008. Registered office: Titchfield House, 69/85 Tabernacle Street, London, EC2A 4RR
- People's Postcode Lottery players support the following Trusts – Postcode African Trust, Postcode Animal Trust, Postcode Care Trust, Postcode Children Trust, Postcode Community Trust, Postcode Culture Trust, Postcode Dream Trust, Postcode Global Trust, Postcode Green Trust, Postcode Heroes Trust, Postcode Planet Trust, People's Postcode Trust and Postcode Sport Trust. These Trusts are funded entirely by players and support a variety of good causes. For further information on each charity, visit: www.postcodelottery.co.uk/charities
- 50p from every £2 ticket goes to good causes and players have raised over £75.6 Million for good causes across the Great Britain and globally
- There are five draws a month with prizes every day and each ticket costs £2 – paid monthly in advance by direct debit. For further prize information, visit: www.postcodelottery.co.uk/prizes
- Maximum amount a single ticket can win is 10% of the draw revenue to a maximum of £400,000
- Players can sign up by Direct Debit, credit card or PayPal online at www.postcodelottery.co.uk, or by calling 0808 10-9-8-7-6-5.

