

Press Release

22nd June 2016



X Factor finalist, Danyl Johnson Launches first Edible Playground in Reading

Inspiring children to grow and eat good food

Edible Playgrounds, a project led by Trees for Cities, to provide schools in urban areas with the opportunity to grow food in their playgrounds, will be launching an edible playground at the Palmer Academy in Reading on Wednesday 22nd June.

X Factor finalist 2009 Danyl Johnson, will officially open the edible playground and Councillor Mohammed Ayub, Mayor of Reading will be attending. Michelin star chef, Dominic Chapman, who has recently adopted the school to deliver food education and cooking sessions to some of the students, will also be joining the celebration and governors, parents, children, schools, local residents and the local community will be celebrating the opening and exploring the garden.

Players of People's Postcode Lottery have awarded Trees for Cities and its partners – Chefs Adopt a School and School Food Matters, nearly £250,000 Dream Funding to create ten edible playgrounds over two years in schools across the UK. Palmer Academy was one of the lucky ten schools to receive funding. Over the last ten months Trees for Cities and its partners have been working in partnership with the Palmer Academy, to bring together growing, cooking, and learning about the importance of eating healthy food.

Clara Govier, Head of Charities at People's Postcode Lottery said: "We are delighted that the £249,180 in funding from players of People's Postcode Lottery is allowing Edible Playground across the country, the success of the project is proven and we are delighted to be supporting such an excellent project".

The children at the Palmer Academy have been growing a phenomenal crop of lettuce, peas, beans, carrots, radishes, strawberries, raspberries, to name a few in their edible playground. The edible playground has lovely raised beds for growing vegetables and a sun ray fruit garden. Around the edge is an orchard of espalier apple trees. The children have compost bins and a wormery to learn about composting and the nutrient cycle and they have a large greenhouse to start their seedlings.

Dom Prendergast, Deputy Head Teacher at the Palmer Academy said: "Our Edible Playground has transformed the outdoor grounds of our school into an incredible food growing space. Children in city areas often have limited opportunities to learn and play in natural environments, so we are excited that our edible playground will provide our children

and the local Reading community the opportunity to grow, cook and eat healthy, good food. We are continually striving to encourage our children to be healthier and we view the edible playground as an opportunity to develop this further as well as bring learning outside the classroom.”

David Elliott, Chief Executive of Trees for Cities 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. Edible Playgrounds are part of our overall goal to plant trees and green communities in cities, revitalising these areas and improving the lives of the people that live in them”.

Trees for Cities has been working in schools to plant fruit and nut trees since 2000. With this track record and experience, Tfc’ technical expertise in the delivery of Edible Playgrounds and operations is well established and highly regarded. The first Edible Playground was created in 2003. There are currently over 30 Edible Playgrounds in the UK with a further 40 to be rolled out over the next three years.

The project has also been supported by Dobbies Garden Centre who kindly donated tools.

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, a tool shed and tools for children, wormery, compost area, fruit trees, fruit and vegetable plants and an irrigation system. The school is also supported for 12 months post build with capacity building, including management planning and teacher training.

www.edibleplaygrounds.org

Trees for Cities is the only charity working on an international scale specialising in **planting urban trees** and providing **volunteering opportunities** to bring local people together. We are a game-changing, ambitious organisation that sets the standard for urban forestry worldwide. Our groundbreaking Edible Playground programmes **inspire children to grow and eat good food**, and create a lifelong connection with nature. Since we started in 1993, we have engaged over **70,000 people** to plant over **600,000 trees cities worldwide**. **We plant trees** in parks, streets, schools and housing estates.

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 £66.4 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.

