



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Manorfield Primary School in Tower Hamlets confirmed as 10th Dream Fund Edible Playground school

Inspiring Children to Grow and Eat Good Food

Manorfield Primary School is about to embark on a new teaching and learning journey over the next few years, thanks to players of People's Postcode Lottery. Their *Dream Fund* Edible Playground programme is a partnership between Trees for Cities, School Food Matters and Chefs Adopt a School to create 10 flagship Edible Playgrounds in London, Manchester, Reading and Liverpool.

Trees for Cities will transform under-used areas of Manorfield's school playground into a fully functioning food growing space giving students the opportunity to grow fruit and vegetables and learn why healthy eating is important. As well as enriching each child's learning experience, it will also enable teachers to teach across their broad and creative curriculum in a fun and engaging outdoor space.

In addition, Chefs Adopt a School will run cooking sessions with students at school with the aim of connecting the school with a local chef who will adopt them. School Food Matters are offering enterprise opportunities with a food growing theme through their School Membership programme and helping the school achieve their first Food for Life Award.

Paul Jackson, Head Teacher says: "This is a fantastic opportunity for the children at Manorfield. I feel strongly that all children should be given the opportunity to grow and cook their own food as this not only improves their knowledge of where our food comes from but also develops essential life skills for adulthood. Our children will use this outdoor learning resource to develop their vocabulary and problem solving skills, vital for improving both English and Maths. We are all very excited to see the Edible Playground take shape and come to life; it will be with us for many years into the future."

The edible playground will be designed specifically for the school, including raised beds for growing salads, root vegetables, brassicas, soft fruits and herbs, fruit trees, a green house and a composting area. Pupils will enjoy planting and harvesting workshops throughout the year, and teachers will receive support to teach outdoors through gardening thanks to additional funding from the Ernest Cook Trust.

David Elliott, Chief Executive at Trees for Cities said "We are delighted to announce our tenth Dream Fund Edible Playground at Manorfield Primary School in Tower Hamlets. Edible Playgrounds show children how rewarding it is to spend time outdoors and get them excited about where their food comes from. We have developed 50 edible playgrounds supporting over 25,000 pupils across the UK - 10 of these with our charity partners Chefs Adopt a School and School Food Matters thanks to support from The People's Postcode Lottery."

For more information about the Edible Playground programme please contact Isla Meynell on 020 78204416 or email: isla@treesforcities.org

Ends

Images available upon request

Notes to Editors

Trees for Cities is an independent charity making our cities greener both in the UK and internationally. They also plant 'Edible Playgrounds' in primary schools in deprived urban areas of the UK to help children learn about growing and eating healthy food. All of this is done with the help of thousands of volunteers.

The trees they plant transform spaces where people live, work and play, particularly in areas where the social and environmental impact on local people is greatest: in London this might mean planting trees to clean the air, focusing on areas affected by NO2 Pollution, whilst internationally they plant fruiting trees for food and sustainable livelihoods.

Since 1993, Trees for Cities has engaged over 70,000 people to plant over 600,000 urban trees in parks, streets, schools and housing estates worldwide, revitalising these areas and improving the lives of the people that live in them.

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

www.treesforcities.org

www.edibleplaygrounds.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.org/>

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/>

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
- A minimum of 30% goes directly to charities and players have raised £135.8 Million for good causes across the country
- £10 for 10 draws paid monthly in advance with prizes every day. For further prize information visit: www.postcode lottery.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
- Postcode Lottery Limited is regulated by the Gambling Commission under certificate nr 000-000829-N-102511-011 and 000-000829-R-102513-010. Registered office: Titchfield House, 69/85 Tabernacle Street, London, EC2A 4RR
- People's Postcode Lottery manages multiple society lotteries promoted by different charities. For details on which society lottery is running each week, visit www.postcodelottery.co.uk/society

Ernest Cook Trust

The **Ernest Cook Trust** is one of the UK's leading outdoor learning charities. Rooted in the conservation and management of the countryside, the Trust actively encourages children and young people to learn from the land through hands-on outdoor learning opportunities on its estates and by offering grants. The Trust was founded by the philanthropist Ernest Cook in 1952 and each year, as a result of his foresight and passion for the countryside and the arts, the current Trustees are able to distribute around £1.8m in educational grants to benefit children and young people. The Trust currently owns and manages 22,000 acres of landed estates in Buckinghamshire, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Leicestershire and Oxfordshire; it upholds the highest standards of estate management throughout its land, farms and buildings, remaining true to Ernest Cook's vision. The Ernest Cook Trust is very unusual in being a land-based trust which has education as its sole charitable object. The Trust places education at its very heart by offering children and young people a range of outdoor learning opportunities. www.ernestcooktrust.org.uk

