

Building a dedicated cooking room – St John’s Primary, Mid Somer Norton

Opened by chef Richard Bertinet in 2012 our purpose built cooking room has 4 cooking bays containing a large table, cooker and sink. Each bay can have up to 4 children working in it, so we can accommodate 16 at any one time. There is a separate fully equipped area for the teacher, complete with interactive whiteboard and a large store cupboard.

The room is typically used 4 days a week for cooking as part of the curriculum by the pupils and is available for rent on Friday’s.

The total cost to build the room itself was around £200k. The school raised this in a number of ways including, the school budget, a small number of grants, the PTA and every year group, as part of their Business Enterprise Curriculum, were asked to come up with 5 fundraising ideas. Year groups were able to go to our head teacher for seed funding to support their endeavors. Early Years Foundation had a ‘silent auction’ which raised over £2,000. Another year group made bird houses with donated materials which were then sold.

When it came to equipping the kitchen, we opened up a John Lewis ‘wedding list’ and parents were able to go on line to purchase equipment for the school. We continue to raise funds to support the cookery room and the purchase of additional equipment.