



Ofsted inspection team acknowledge benefits of cooking and gardening across the curriculum

Great Dunmow Primary School are now in their 4th year of curriculum linked cooking lessons.

In April 2014, Great Dunmow Primary received a visit from Ofsted. During the visit, the Foundation stage children were observed exploring fruits and vegetables and Year 4 children observed making soda bread. The school are thrilled that the inspection report acknowledges the benefits of cooking and gardening across the curriculum.

The inspection report made several references to how the pupils benefit from cooking and gardening. They specifically noted the numeracy and literacy skills and wrote about the soda bread the children offered to the inspectors. The following extracts have been taken from the Ofsted Report dated 19/05/14.

"Achievement in literacy and numeracy is high. Skills are reinforced in different subjects and topics. For example, in cookery, pupils were involved in discussion of the recipe, precise measurements and explaining what their initial ideas for their product might look like in reality"

"Disabled pupils and those who have special educational needs make good progress because appropriate support is quickly put in place following a prompt identification of their learning needs. Their individual interests are encouraged with activities, such as the popular gardening sessions to encourage communication and social skills."

"Pupils know the importance of fitness and healthy living as another way to stay safe. The subjects on offer, such as swimming, gardening and cookery, help to ensure that pupils are well prepared for possible future activities."

"The range of subjects taught is extensive and expands pupils' learning well. Subjects are well supplemented by extra-curricular clubs and activities. During the inspection, pupils arrived enthusiastically with fresh soda bread, which they had just prepared under careful guidance, for all staff, and the inspection team. Such topics are one of the factors which ensure that pupils have extremely positive attitudes to learning across the school."

