

## Outdoor learning conference and..... ..... gardening competition!

12th June 2018  
09.30-15.40

Swaffield Primary School  
St Ann's Hill, Wandsworth  
London SW18 2SA

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### ***The conference...***

.....is for all Head Teachers, SLT teachers or other staff members responsible for outdoor learning in schools which already have gardening programmes, would like to improve them and share their experiences  
AND  
those schools which have simply not had the time to think about the benefits of outdoor learning  
AND  
it's FREE!

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### ***Conference summary***

09.30-13.00 *Morning session*  
13.00-14.00 *Lunch break*  
14.00-15.40 *Afternoon session and  
Garden Competition Awards*

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### ***The competition...***

.....is for primary school pupils with the chance to be one of 4 prizewinners to put your design into practice. Prizes (including planters, gardening tools, books, tickets and seed packs) will be donated by all the organisations represented and many others including.....

.....pre-planted VegTrug planters to start up a new school green space or add to an existing garden as well as free hours of expert advice on how to set up a school garden and run outdoor activities.....

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## Conference Aims

The conference will help all participating schools to promote the benefits of:

- *Outdoor learning, growing and nurturing for all children, including those with special needs*
- *Dealing with the challenges of introducing outdoor learning into school lives (curriculum links)*
- *Learning about wildlife biodiversity*
- *Nutrition – the benefits for a child’s diet from hands-on outdoor activities*
- *Open-ended learning and play; and*
- ***Above all, community participation, networking possibilities and fun!***

## Participants/supporters/speakers

### National

- Groundwork
- Edible playgrounds
- RHS – Campaign for School Gardening
- Grow Wild (Kew Botanical Gardens)
- Buglife
- Thrive
- VegTrug
- Nether Wallop Trading Company
- Sea Spring Seeds
- The Essentials Company
- Rocket Gardens
- Quickcrop
- Waitrose



### Keynote Speaker

- *Tim Gill, Rethinking Childhood*

### Local

- *Natural Thinkers*
- *TTT - community garden*
- *Paradise Co-Operative*

## Conference - the day in detail

From 09:30	Arrive and tea/coffee
10.00-10.30	Welcome and introduction (Mrs C Lilley, Head Teacher, Swaffield, and Cllr Sarah McDermott, Lead Member for Children Services, Wandsworth)
10.30-11.00	Buglife - "wildlife and biodiversity"
11.00-11.30	Natural Thinkers - "outdoors and national curriculum links"
11.30-11.45	Break
11.45-12.30	Tim Gill, Rethinking Childhood - "sowing the seeds" (challenges of outdoor learning in the schools setting)
12.30-13.00	General Q&A/morning round-up
13.00-14.00	Lunch (sandwiches provided) - networking, hands-on activities, showcase (4-6 tables), including VegTrug presentation
14.00-14.30	Becky Pinniger, specialist and author, Thrive - "Horticultural therapy and gardening with children with SEND"
14.30-15.00	Edible Playgrounds - "growing edibles in school"
15.00-15.40	Afternoon Q&A/closing remarks/Prize Awards

## Gardening Competition

### ***'Big Green Words - what do they mean to you?'***

February - May 2018 (see timetable for exact dates)

Design your dream garden within your school grounds.  
Discuss and take into account the aspects listed below.

#### **Focus topics for garden design competition: What does it mean for you?**

- Growing
- Wildlife
- Biodiversity
- Air quality
- Sustainability
- Water resources
- Conservation
- Nutrition (humans and other species)



#### **Competition rules**

- final submission on A1 foam board
- use any flat materials in a format which can be displayed on foam board
- maximum of 2 projects submitted per school
- projects can be submitted as team or individual entry
- participants from KS1 and KS2
- all entries must be submitted by 12.00 on 18th May to Swaffield Primary School (c/o Derek Eade)
- judged by wholly independent panel of experts!

***All submissions will be displayed at Swaffield during the conference and children from the winning teams will be invited to join the conference from 14.30 (notified immediately after 23rd May)***

#### **Timetable**

Deadline for applications: by 12.00 on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2018  
Top designs chosen: by 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018 (to be invited to awards ceremony during the conference in June)  
Awards ceremony: 12th June 2018, Outdoor Learning Conference

## Advertising opportunities

- *Brightside*
- *Headstart*
- *Wandsworth schools magazine*
- *Social media - local and national*
- *Other*

## Contributors

1. speaker and/or showcase for the hands-on activity during lunch break
2. VegTrug preparation and planting (from March to June) as part of main prize
3. being a part of the award decision panel for the competition
4. contribution towards competition prizes
5. contribution of seed packets, printed and other educational resources for the promotional cloth bags
6. contribution of advisory/workshop time for winning schools

- *Groundwork*
- *Edible playgrounds*
- *RHS – Campaign for School Gardening*
- *Grow Wild (Kew Gardens)*
- *Buglife*
- *Thrive*
- *Natural Thinkers*
- *TTT - community garden*
- *Paradise Co-Operative*
- *VegTrug*
- *Nether Wallop Trading Company*
- *Sea Spring Seeds*
- *The Essentials Company*
- *Rocket Gardens*
- *Quickcrop*
- *Waitrose*
- *Battersea Arts Centre*
- *B&Q*
- *Burgon&Ball*
- *Forest Garden*

