

*Cherry Tree Primary School  
& Speech and Language Unit  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***Bob Russell MP Applauds Primary School Gardening Project***

Bob Russell, MP for Colchester and a keen gardener himself, jumped at the opportunity to visit the allotment at Cherry Tree Primary School & Speech and Language Centre yesterday morning [Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2009]. The vegetable garden was created by the children through the Royal Horticultural Society's Campaign for School Gardening, and Bob Russell was able to help pupils Prabesh Limbu, Daniel Stringer & Tazmin Williams harvest their first potatoes as well as peas, carrots and broad beans.

Bob Russell was impressed with the initiative to actively engage the whole school in learning outside the classroom, and took the opportunity to explain to the children that for one seed potatoes planted fourteen were harvested. "Maths, skills for life, sustainability and having fun while learning are clearly what these children are experiencing here", he said. As one of the children offered to share her packet of crisps, Bob pointed out that they had started life as potatoes too!

Alison Findlay, project officer for the Royal Horticultural Society in East Anglia said, "Cherry Tree Primary School is a great example of how schools can get growing! The children began planning in summer term last year, by measuring out a potential area on their school field. Beds were dug in the autumn, then in March this year, 8 raised beds were made,

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Note for editors: Picture attached

using a simple plastic kit bed system that the children themselves put together, with the help of parents, teachers and RHS Hyde Hall gardener Andrew Hellman and myself. Their first growing season has been a success with fresh potatoes, carrots, peas and broad beans all ready to eat before the end of the summer term. The RHS Campaign for School Gardening believes that a school garden is a great opportunity for children to learn where their food come and take part in learning outside the classroom. It can be a valuable teaching resource where children can learn many subjects from science, Maths, to design and technology.”

Sharon Short, Headteacher, said, “We were delighted to welcome Bob Russell and show him how the school allotment forms an integral part of the wellbeing of our children. They gain the experience of gardening whilst widening their horizons as we cover such topics as healthy living and sustainability, so important for our world today.”

Alison Findlay also said, “Over 40 schools have registered with the RHS Campaign for School Gardening, an on line resource, where teachers can gain access to information to help them develop their school gardens. I run termly free training for teachers in Colchester at Cherry Tree Primary School on what to sow and grow each term and practical skills of gardening in schools. It is a great way to meet other teachers in the area who are gardening in schools. For more information about the Campaign go to [www.rhs.org.uk/schoolgardening](http://www.rhs.org.uk/schoolgardening) For information about the termly training email [alisonfindlay@rhs.org.uk](mailto:alisonfindlay@rhs.org.uk)”

ENDS

Issued: Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2009, noon

**RHS Campaign for  
School Gardening**



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