



Welcome to Maryland's Cluckingham Palace and award-winning Nature Garden!

Nature's Garden is something we are really proud of at Maryland. It has won a five star award from the RHS and a gold award from Alan Titchmarsh and the London Children's Flower Society.



Our chickens and Nature's Garden are integral to Maryland. Cluckingham Palace began in 2011 where our Nursery watched chicks hatching, instead of returning them, we kept them and built them a palace.

Ever since, the chickens have been cared for by the dedicated Eggspert team in Year 5. We use the chickens to learn about life.



to



Eggs are sold every Tuesday outside the Nursery along with Nature Garden produce when it is in season.

Nature's Garden was built in 2001 by one of our Governors, Les Rice. He converted the school's rounder's pitch into a much needed green space for pupils, parents and the wider community to enjoy.

Many residences in our community do not have access to gardens, which is why Nature's Garden is always being enjoyed and used either before, during or after school. In 2015, we won a gold award for the garden from the London Children's Flower Society. We always welcome visits if it's to show you the chickens, or our garden and share ideas.



Other schools visit Maryland to find out from our Eggsperts and Ecowarriors how to keep chickens and how to have a school garden.

The event was attended by a total of 12 different schools and food growing organisations and left us all feeling inspired and motivated.

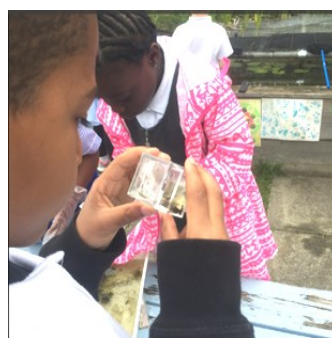
A quote from one of our visitors: 'We enjoyed a tour around Maryland's fantastic garden courtesy of the schools 'Eco Warriors' from year 2 who enjoyed showing off their sensory area, pond, raised vegetable beds and even a brilliant chicken coop! It was amazing to hear how knowledgeable and enthusiastic the children are about the plants, trees and vegetables that they are growing and how confident they are with handling and looking after the chickens. The school's growing programme is run with the support of school staff and also some parents who regularly volunteer their time, this has enabled it to become well embedded in to the daily life of the school and to really thrive.'

The garden is available for schools to visit and use as a fully equipped learning resource. Please contact the main school office on [02085348135](tel:02085348135) for further details.

Areas

Throughout the school we have dedicated space to different outdoor activities

Our growing beds are used every spring to grow different produce. We are learning the benefits of different vegetables. Sometimes we have experimented with produce from around

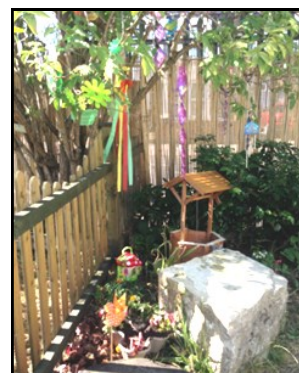


Our pond is used by children to pond dip. The pond was rebuilt in 2014 by one of our parents. Since the rebuild, toads spawn every year. We love studying the toadspawn with our microscopes.

We have spotted newts, dragonflies and sometimes a heron even though we're in a completely built up area. We have written our own pond guides to inform our community what guests to expect!

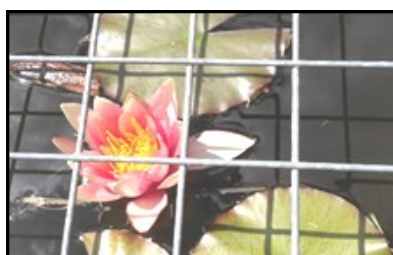


Maryland Trees. All our trees are identifiable via QR codes. We use these as study resources particularly during Science lessons. Year 1 have a great tree hunt to explore our different trees in different seasons. Our oak tree is quite famous as it is our logo. In 2005, Mrs Jackson planted the acorn with some children and parents. It's now over two metres high, we wonder how big it will grow?



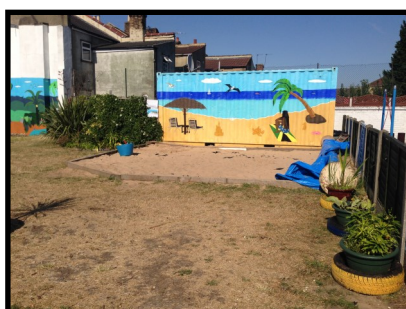
The garden.

The garden has many uses. We have an outdoor performance area for children to act, sing or dance. Sometimes we use this area for outdoor assemblies. Our sensory area is a quiet area where children can go to read or play. We have even had poetry recitals. Libby Houston, a poet and botanist visited the school and held a poetry day based around the garden.



Our Nature Club have planted many different fruits and vegetables there. We also use our gardening skills in our garden box outside the school.

Nature's Garden has a very own Negri Beach and Blue Mountains from Jamaica. This is because the garden was used as a base for the Jamaican Olympic team to have a beach party during the Olympics in 2012. Every break time during the summer, the children love playing in the sand. They also built a beach hut, we converted it into a learning station to identify plants and animals that live in the garden.

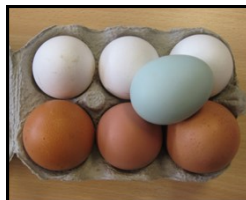


Cluckingham Palace

Come to the Nursery every Tuesday at 3.30pm

6 fresh eggs - £2

We also regularly sell our produce such as lavender bags, mint, potatoes and other produce from the garden. All money raised goes towards the upkeep of our chickens



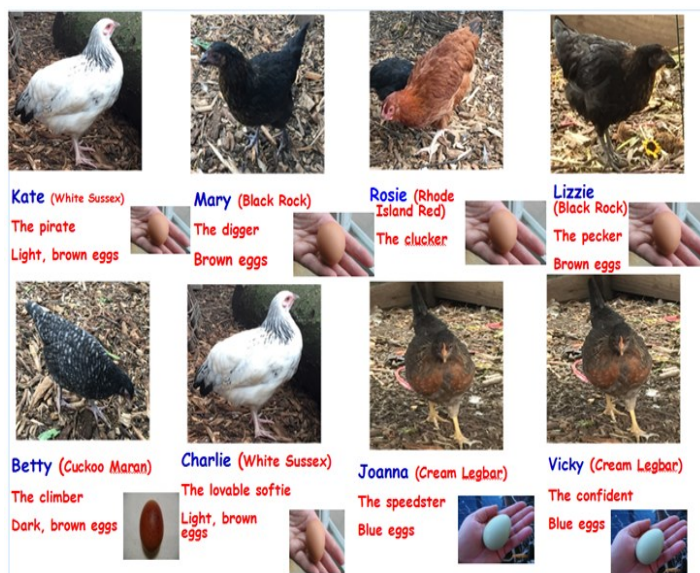
Maryland Big Digs with our community.

Our Friends of Maryland, The Gate Library and social hub on Woodgrange Road gather intermittently to spring clean Nature's Garden. After the success of the initial Big Dig, they will take place during the Spring and Summer holidays, keep your eye on our Twitter account for dates. We would love to see you! Alternatively, if you would like to support our garden, please email: Anastasia.boreham@maryland.newham.sch.uk

Sustainability

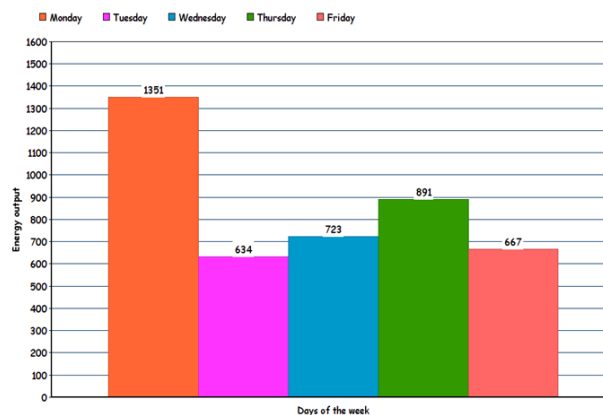
The garden and chickens helps us to understand how important our world is. We give our garden waste to nearby farms for animal feed. Our Eco-warriors have been proactive this year in monitoring the daily energy output of the school, in an attempt to make our school more efficient. Four infant and junior children have been completing the following tasks every lunchtime:

- Switching off any classroom boards
- Ensuring taps are switched off fully and not left dripping
- Ensuring recycling in each class has been emptied
- Turning classroom lights to auto
- Reminding all staff of the recommended thermostat settings to ensure we are not wasting heat every week
- Garden waste and left over fruit from the infant classrooms has been fed to the chickens, keeping the garden clear and the chickens healthy.
- Monitoring and recording the electrical output daily



What were their findings?

Mondays are higher as reading are not taken over the weekend. Another reason might be if an event taken place on the Saturday or Sunday. Most radiators were on the recommended settings, although it was useful to promote sustainable energy to all users. Tuesday and Fridays seem to generally have the lowest energy output week on week. No particular reason can be given for this, however it could be that the number of clubs run after school may be lower on the Monday and Friday and have therefore had an impact on the readings.



Growing seeds from space

Year 2 were given the job of investigating if it was possible for plant life to grow in space...are the conditions suitable to sustain life? This was part of an exciting programme launched and supported by Tim Peake (the first British astronaut to fly to space) and was eagerly undertaken by the whole year group. Certain children were specifically chosen to water the seedlings daily and monitor their progress- 100 seeds were grown and marked as the 'red group...' and 100 seeds were grown and marked as the 'blue group.' It was an exciting opportunity to figure out which packet had gone into space and we would love to hear what you thought happened to the seeds!

Lucky Year 5 used the experience to write a book about visiting space and we even met Tim Peake!

We asked him about weird dreams in space and scientific findings. Please ask Year 6.

You can read their work on:

<http://www.marylandwepublish.org/>

