

The planning



In response to a local head teacher asking for an experience for the children in growing their own and healthy eating Chestnut Events began to seek advice, interest and enthusiasm from local people. With funding in place and a team of volunteers we planned organised visits to a local allotment site. During 2007 the whole school with 150 pupils visited the allotment site made plans and begun to assist learning about and growing fruit and vegetables. From the successful feedback received from the school

staff and parents future plans were made to give one class an annual experience starting from April by sowing the seeds to locally growing their own fruit and vegetables at an allotment site and finally consuming home made soup in October. In order for the whole school to still be involved an idea was formed to create a school garden using a small plot of underused school land and offer this space for all teachers to use as well as give 1 class a complete opportunity to work alongside others in the local area by maintaining a allotment plot on a community site.



With the financial assistance from Dean Gibson PTA, Awards For All, The Lupton Tower Trust and The Knights of St Columba we began this project. In kind donations of volunteer time, school space and equipment came from the Kendal community, Dean Gibson School and other local businesses.

Chestnut Children's Community Events worked in partnership with Mr Syred and his Yr 3 Class at Dean Gibson School from April -July 2008 and again with the same pupils as they moved into Yr4 from September -November 2008. By learning about what seeds need to grow the class began potting the seeds in containers for the school garden and allotment project. Volunteers assisted the children water monitors and the seedlings grew, soon becoming ready to plant out in May.

From there we invited small groups to join the Chestnut team of leaders and volunteers to the



Wattsfield Community Allotment Site where the children learnt about safety for themselves and how the site is managed. They began to consider what fruit and vegetables they wanted to grow and planned the site accordingly. The volunteers and children also created an area on the school site that was being underused where they were supervised and instructed how to plant and take care of the vegetables and fruit.