



# Moss Hey Gardening Club

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2015

Weather : Mostly warm and sunny but there's a little nip in the air!

## Growing Outside

Children:

Year 4 lunchtime

Lauren Minnie  
Francesca Luke  
Jack James

Year 3

Oscar  
George

Year 5

Lola Logan  
Ivy Harry  
Finley Amy

Year 6

Cassia  
Max  
Scarlett  
Lily

Welcome back to a new school year!

Today we noticed that although it was warm and sunny, it is definitely a bit chilly in the mornings as Autumn gets going. For plants, this colder weather is a sign for them to take action!

If a plant can't survive the Winter, as many plants don't, then they need to make sure they make more of themselves so that they don't die out altogether and become extinct. They do this by making seeds - in a way these are their babies!



We looked at some plants in the Courtyard which have already made seeds - the Peas and the Lettuce. Then we looked at some other plant's seeds. Seeds come in all shapes, sizes and colours, but the main thing they try and do is spread themselves around - away from their parent plants. We call this "DISPERSAL".

Seeds disperse themselves in a few different ways. We talked about how the seeds of a few weeds, particularly Dandelions are very light so that the WIND can carry them away, and we looked at another weed that was doing this all over the Courtyard!



Some seeds are inside fruits, like berries. These make themselves look nice and shiny and juicy, so that the birds and animals EAT them. But how do they then get dispersed? When the animal does a poo, they come out!





Other seeds are very cleverly designed to have lots of tiny "hooks" all over them, like sticky weed. This makes sure that they ATTACH to any animal which comes near them so that they can be transported somewhere else. Some children said their dogs had moved a few of these around!



We played a game to show another way seeds get dispersed. Each child had to pretend to be a squirrel and hide a nut to store as food for

Winter (in our case, a sultana!). They buried them somewhere in soil in the Courtyard. After some time they went to find them again, but not everyone could remember where they had hidden their nut! In this way nuts and berries (seeds) get dispersed and put somewhere perfect to grow again in the Spring!



Finally we made our own seed packets using ORIGAMI, and used them to collect some of the pea and lettuce seeds. We now need to keep these cool until the Spring, when we can plant them and start all over again.



Great work today everyone!

Mandy

