

**MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL NEWS**

This term we have been encouraging the children (and Parents!) to LEARN TO LOVE LITERACY by holding a series of weekly event inviting the children and parents to come along for a story time, singing, or to enjoy a story sack. These have been great fun so far and fit in very well with the arrival of our new Book Corner Furniture (see cover for photo).



If you would like to join us please telephone 07749 245313 or e:mail marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk. We are currently accepting applications for September 2010 and onwards.

**MARION, NICKY AND KATHARINE.**

**GROWING TECHNIQUES**

Getting the most from a small to medium sized vegetable plot, can be a challenge to us all when space is at a premium.



Four styles at gardening can be used to achieve optimum productivity and they are sowing successionaly, intersowing, intercropping, and finally catch cropping.

Successional sowing of crops like radish, spring onion and lettuces, which are not great at storing for use at a later point, is an ideal way of avoid huge volumes and then voids of availability with them.

To achieve the best effects of successional sowing, simply sow short rows of each crop every few weeks. That way as you finish harvesting one row, the next row will be nearly ready.

The intersowing technique involves mixing the seeds of small but quick growing crops such as radish with the much more slow growing parsnip crop. As you may have found out, parsnips take ages to even germinate and we can easily hoe up emerging seedlings by mistake while we keep the weeds down. Sowing a mixed row of radish and parsnips allows you to quickly see the row of parsnips as the radish very soon are marking out the location very precisely, thus avoiding any hoeing accidents. By the time you have harvested the radish, them parsnips with only just be sticking their first few leaves through the soils surface.

Intercropping is similar to intersowing, but with the intercropping technique you plant rows of summer cropping things like peas, early carrots and early beetroot, between slow maturing rows of winter crops of leeks and brussels sprouts and their like. With this technique you need to make sure that you still leave enough room so you can walk between summer and winter crop for any

maintenance purposes that may well arise.

Finally, catch cropping is a good way of avoiding any ground that could lay bare for a number of months during the prime time of summer. A crop such as purple sprouting broccoli will finish harvesting possibly as late as the month of May, which is rather late to sowing many crops. But French beans, turnips, beetroot and our very reliable friend the good old radish, that all mature very quickly, can fill a vacant piece of land. As they manure very fast, the ground also becomes free for autumn digging. Although, if you believe in leaving the ground fallow or have a no dig policy, this may not be of concern.

Anyway, have a think and see if you can make your vegetable plot even more productive next year.

**Happy Gardening,  
STUART MABBUTT**



**Do something amazing today – give blood**

96% of us rely on the other 4% to give blood. Please don't leave it to someone else. Most people can give blood. If you are generally in good heath, age 17 to 65 (if it's your first time) and weigh at least 7st 12lb you can donate. You can give blood every 16 weeks, that's approximately every four months.

**www.blood.co.uk 0300 123 23 23**



**MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL**



If you have young children and would like to register an interest in your child attending Marcham School in the future, please fill in and return this form to school by **12th February 2010**. This form is not an application to school and does not guarantee a place, but will allow us to plan the future of the school and help with our discussions with the Admissions Team at Oxfordshire County Council.

|                                 |                      |                    |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| <b>NAME OF PARENT/GUARDIAN:</b> |                      |                    |
| <b>ADDRESS:</b>                 |                      |                    |
| <b>NAME OF CHILD</b>            | <b>DATE OF BIRTH</b> | <b>MALE/FEMALE</b> |
|                                 |                      |                    |
|                                 |                      |                    |
|                                 |                      |                    |