



**Echo Eternal Curriculum Garden**



**Anemones and crocuses are stunning.....**



**The Beginning of March has been gorgeous.....**

The first week of March has delivered some absolutely gorgeous weather, after overnight frost, we have been treated to some very welcome sunshine....

# More stunning spring colour.....



**Spring colour...**

# Foxes do not respect garden spaces.....

Sadly, some of our garden spaces have become victims of foxes, obviously they are wild animal's and they are looking for food, roots, worms, frogs, rodents etc. So, a garden space that is rich in food means nothing to foxes, if they find food, they will literally dig and tear up whatever is in their way. Unfortunately, this is not the first time they have destroyed one particular area of the garden... With this in mind, we are going to look at revamping this area. Below you can see some of the



**Fox  
Damage..**

# Rose Garden is making lots of growth.....

The Rose Garden that we have planted up at the front of the garden area is now starting to make plenty of new strong growth come the summer months, we will hopefully have plenty of spectacular colour and also some blooms with some beautiful fragrances.....



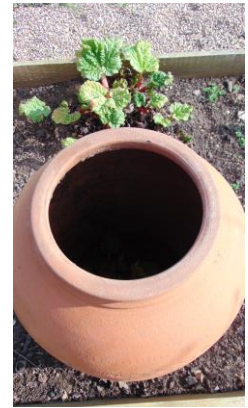
# Roses.....

# Rhubarb is looking good.....

Probably one of the toughest and easiest fruits to grow is rhubarb. Leave it out in the ground all through the winter and then watch the new growth emerge from the crown, new growth that grows very quickly. But, we can make rhubarb grow even quicker – plants essentially need light to grow, so, if we block the light by using a rhubarb forcer, then the plant grows quicker as it searches out the light, plus the stems are a gorgeous pink colour and they taste super sweet. Now, for the overall health of the plant, forcing the plant is not done every growing season, so the plant can “re-generate” itself and continue to grow.....



So, here is our starting point with our strong, healthy rhubarb plant.....



Here is our rhubarb forcer that we have placed over the rhubarb plant.....



Here you can see that we have placed the rhubarb forcer over the plant – this is the view from above.....



Now to finish the job, we have put the lid on the forcer.....

# Rhubarb.....

**Daffodils are stunning.....**



**Daffodils.....**

# More super spring colour.....

With lots of spring flowering bulbs all providing masses of colour across the Echo Eternal Curriculum Garden, there are also some primroses that are really adding to the spring colour. These really are stunning c



# Primroses.....

# **New raised bed development taking place.....**

**We have been building lots of new raised beds, there are two reasons for this new development – one reason is to increase our growing space and capacity, the other reason is to significantly reduce the amount of grass that we need to trim and cut. Reducing the grass cutting work will make life easier too.....**



**Here you can see the new raised beds that we are setting up, plus you can see that we have started to utilise cardboard to line our raised beds. Using cardboard is excellent re-cycling, plus lining the beds blocks the light and suppresses the weeds. Just cover the cardboard over with compost..... Now the natural rainfall will soak the cardboard and the compost which creates an environment that the worms will love as they will enjoy the dark and moist cardboard.....**

# More planting work underway.....

Here you can see that we have started some more planting work, the plants we have here are English Bluebells. They are what is called



Bluebells grow from bulbs, so essentially what “in the green” means is that the bulbs have already grown into plants. So, instead of waiting for the bulbs to be planted and then grow, we have planted them up as small plants.....



## English Bluebells in the green.....

## **Pallet Top garden spaces set up.....**



On the left you can see that we have set up two pallet top garden spaces. With a wooden surround built in around the pallet and then a liner is placed on the base before we have filled these pallet top gardens with fresh soil.

## **Anenome Blanda look stunning....**



Anenome Blanda with their flowers generally only opening when it is sunny.....

## **Peas are looking great.....**

We have sown some peas in a big tub inside the poly tunnel – now they have germinated and have made some strong growth, we need to think about putting some growing supports in so that the peas can climb up, peas are clever in that they will produce tendrils that will allow the plants to climb by using these tendrils to wrap around the growing supports.....



# Tulips and Alliums are coming through.....

Following on from the snowdrops, crocuses and now the daffodils, the next spring flowering bulbs to emerge and then flower are our tulips and alliums..... These are stunning flowers in their own right so we can look forwards to plenty more brightly coloured flowers to come yet.....



# March is the optimum time for seed sowing.....

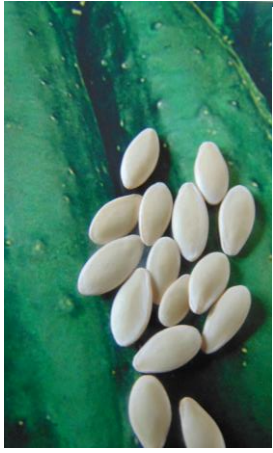
The month of March is the optimum time for seed sowing whether it is indoor or outdoor sowing. Generally, the temperatures, particularly the day - time temperatures are slowly beginning to warm up so the soil should be warming up too – indeed some seeds germinate better if the temperature is not too warm which sees the seed coating crack open to allow the tiny seedling to start growing. To date, we have sown peas and spinach outdoors.....



Some seeds will simply not germinate unless there is a consistent warm temperature, so indoor sowing is essential. Even the poly tunnel temperature is too low particularly as the risk of frost is still high, so seed sowing needs to take place indoors in the house. A windowsill or a warm conservatory will do the job..... Here you can see the cucumbers that we have sown so far with plenty more seed sowing to do yet, both indoors and outdoors.....



# The power of seed germination



Here you can see our Mini Munch cucumber seeds..... This is a variety that produces small but very sweet cucumbers. To think that this small seed will produce a cucumber plant that will then produce fruit to enjoy.....

Seed Germination.....

# Seed leaves.....



Here you can see the first pair of leaves – these are called the seed leaves.....

# True Leaves.....

Here you can see a cucumber seedling and a tomato seedling that are growing into plants as they produce their true leaves.....



Cucumber Plant.....



Seed Germination....

# Spring flowering bulbs are stunning! .....

The Echo Eternal Curriculum garden looks an absolute picture with masses of different narcissus all coming into flower – they really are spectacular.....



## Narcissus.....



**Miniature tulips are amazing! .....**



**Cowslips are colourful too.....**



# **Plum tree is covered in blossom.....**

**Now that we are into spring, the daytime temperatures are slowly warming up although caution needs to be shown as the overnight temperatures drop dramatically to give us frost. The risk of frost can be troublesome with our fruit blossom – here you can see our plum tree that is covered in blossom.....**

**Let us hope that the frost is not sharp enough to damage the blossom plus the warmer daytime temperatures are needed to encourage the pollinators to come out and pollinate our fruit trees.....**



# Blackcurrant bushes are making lots of growth.....

Our black currant bushes provided by Smart Learner Driving School are really making lots of healthy green growth, now in their second year in the ground, we will hopefully get a good crop of fruit this summer.....



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# More spring colour.....

There is no doubt that when the sun shines the spring flowering bulbs really do create a happy backdrop – we very much have a blue theme here with muscari and anemone blanda looking splendid in the sunshine.....

Both of these varieties once they are established spread and naturalise to create almost a carpet of colour.....



# **Poly tunnel grown peas.....**

Here you can see the poly tunnel grown peas that were sown during the winter months – with the protection of the poly tunnel the pea seeds have germinated and are making some really strong growth. They will need staking soon, so, that they can grow up as they produce tendrils that will allow the plants to grow and intertwine up the canes.....



# **Gorgeous herbs.**



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**Rosemary, Lemon Balm and Variegated Lemon Balm.....**

# Ceanothus planted up.....

We have planted up a beautiful perennial called Ceanothus or some people call it Californian Lilac. It has stunning glossy green leaves and once it establishes itself it will produce masses of blue flowers which the bees love.



## **Tashkent Mint is growing fast! .....**

**We have so many different herbs growing in the garden – now as the weather warms up there is lots of new growth coming through particularly some of the mint varieties that we have growing. One such mint variety is Tashkent Mint which has a really strong minty aroma which makes great tea.....**

