

Outdoor learning at Assumption Senior Girls NS

Scientix STEAM Partnership Lesson Plans

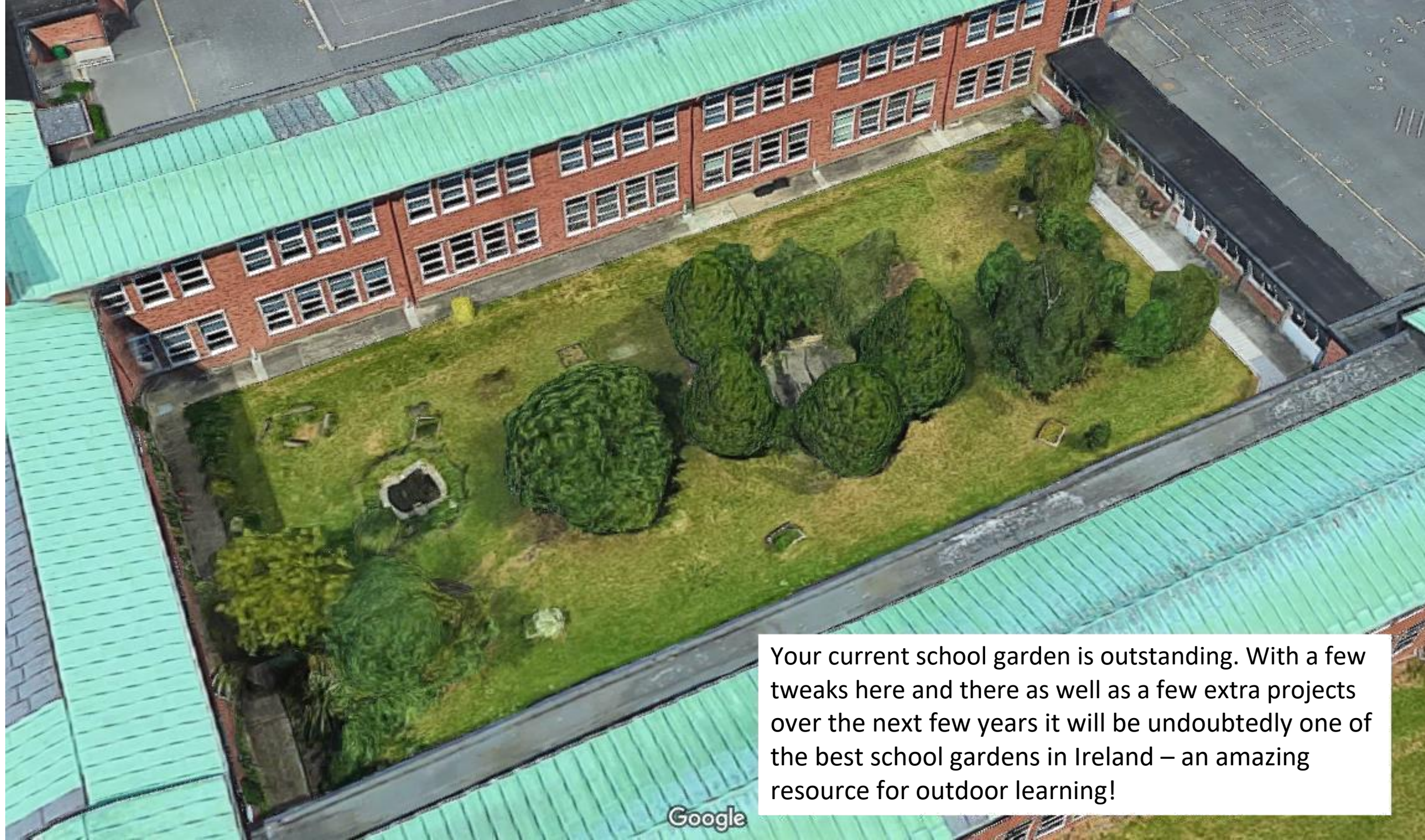


Project Title: *‘Emerging Technologies and STREAMS Education – Eco and Empathetic warriors’*



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Your current school garden is outstanding. With a few tweaks here and there as well as a few extra projects over the next few years it will be undoubtedly one of the best school gardens in Ireland – an amazing resource for outdoor learning!

Before



Google

After

5) Outdoor classroom no.2

4) Raised beds for food growing

10) Polytunnel

8) Frog Pond

1) Outdoor classroom no.1

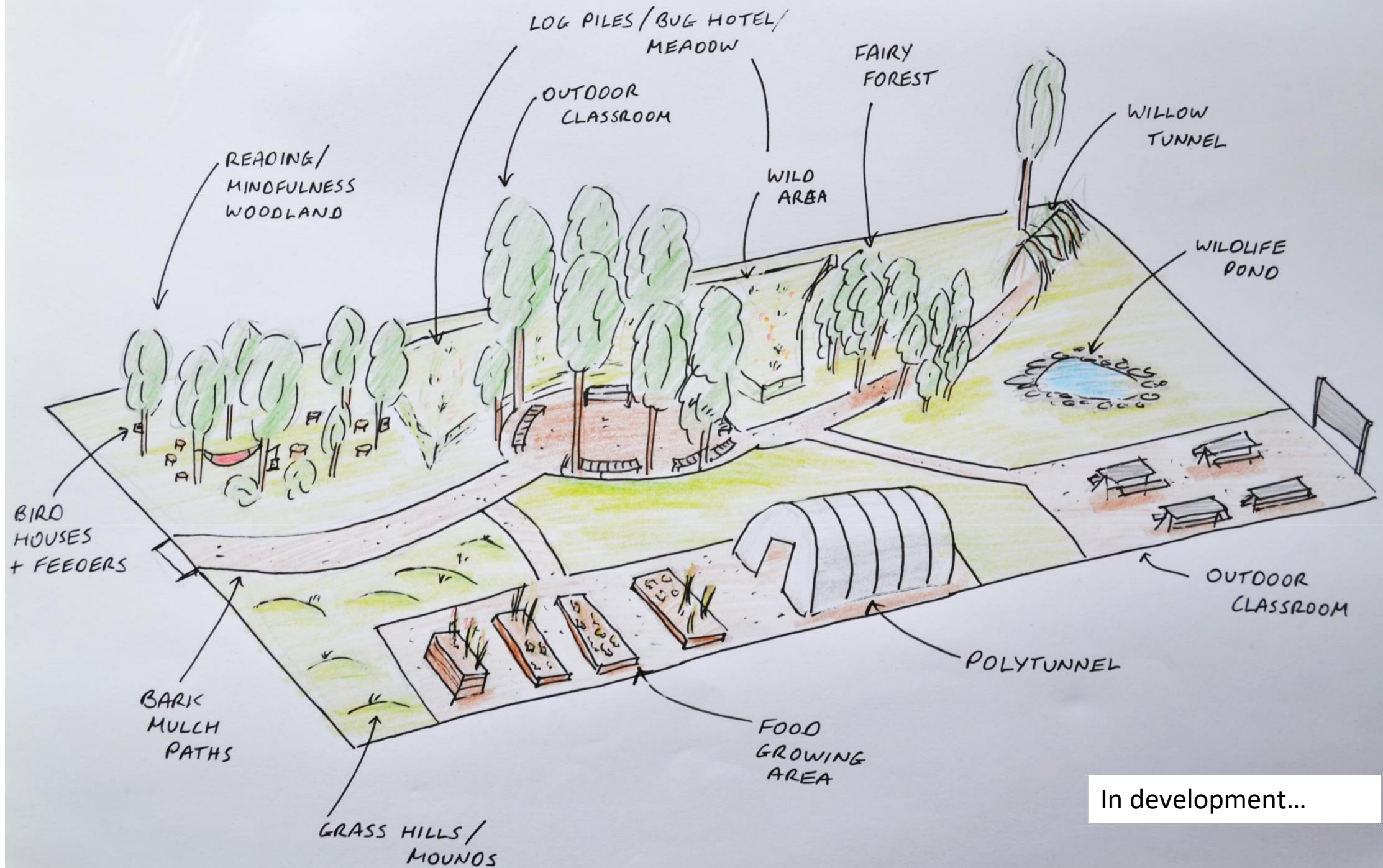
2) Bark mulch pathway

6) Fairy Forest

7) Willow Tunnel

3) Reading/
Mindfulness Woodland

9) Wild Area



In development...



1) Outdoor Classroom no.1

Beneath the tree canopy, nestled amongst the trees is a beautiful setting for an outdoor classroom. Nothing needs to be done except swap the green chairs for our circular outdoor classroom benches. Removal of logs.



2) Bark Mulch Pathways

To make the garden more accessible and easier to use a pathway of bark mulch should be installed bringing visitors to all the main areas of the garden so they are not forced to walk on possibly boggy ground. The most important pathway to install is from the main doorway to the outdoor classroom and also include a wheelchair ramp.



3) Mindfulness/ Reading Woodland

A peaceful place for the girls to go and relax. Seating can be made from logs (you already have some) and spread throughout the woodland – maybe even a hammock! A few more native trees that are missing from your garden can be planted: Oak, Ash, Hawthorn. Also include bird feeders, bird houses.





4) Raised Beds

An area for the children to grow their own plants, eg: fruits, vegetables, herbs. There isn't a bed for every class. Perhaps a particular year group could get involved or maybe teachers who are interested. Three low raised beds, one high raised bed for accessibility.



5) Outdoor Classroom no.2

This is a more practical outdoor classroom that provides the children with somewhere to sit, eat and work. Mark out an area, dig up the grass, line with a membrane, add mulch and purchase some picnic benches and an outdoor blackboard. We can help you with this when the time comes.



6) Fairy Forest

This is a beautiful mini forest which could be a perfect fairy forest for the younger classes. Purchase or make fairy doors and windows. Also encourage the younger classes to build their own little houses, forts and villages here by leaving out natural materials.



7) Willow Dome

Your willow dome needs a little attention and when finished will make a great entrance to the garden. We can tidy this up. It just needs to be maintained throughout the year by weaving in the new growth.





8) Frog Pond

All the hard work here is already done. I would suggest having either a fence or safety grid but not both. Ideally, remove the fence and clean up the grass. Perhaps build up with stones around the edges to create a smaller, less intrusive barrier that the frogs can also use. If you still need a fence perhaps think about updating your current one.





9) Wild Area

Most of your garden will be short grass and bark mulch. This area is where you will leave your grass grow a little longer to benefit wildflowers and pollinators. We can add a bug hotel here as well as collecting all your extra logs and rotting wood, into the one place rather than spread through the garden.





10) Polytunnel

There's no need to get one of these any time soon. When your students and teachers are a little more experienced in growing their own food it might be a nice addition. You could even get a geodesic dome that could double as a covered outdoor classroom!



Summary of tasks to complete this school year under SCIENTIX STEAM Partnership (2022/2023):



- Install new circular outdoor classroom



- Install 4 new raised beds



- Tidy up willow dome



- Dig, bark mulch new food growing area in prep for raised beds.



- Dig new pathways, cover with bark mulch, wheelchair ramp.



- Take away fence from frog pond and clear grass.



- Create fairy forest.



- Dump/ remove old raised beds, reseed with grass.



- Remove all logs, stumps to wild area or reading woodland, reseed patches.

Children's suggestions:

The children had some wonderful suggestions. I have been able to include nearly all of them however there's still a few to tackle!

- Outdoor storage area for their stuff
- Posters on walls
- Games
- Painted pebbles (these could line some of your new pathways or perhaps be included in the fairy forest).
- More squirrels!
- Playground
- Bubble machine!
- Chalk board
- Mini fridge!

Future Projects:

- Outdoor classroom no.2
- Compost area
- Rainwater harvesters
- Sensory garden
- Greenhouse/ Polytunnel
- Grass hills

- VR/AR Q Coding of Areas

- AI iTechs for Vertical Gardening

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The work presented in this document has received funding from the European Union’s H2020 research and innovation programme – project Scientix 4 (Grant agreement N. 101000063), coordinated by European Schoolnet (EUN). The content of the document is the sole responsibility of the organizer and it does not represent the opinion of the European Commission (EC), and the EC is not responsible for any use that might be made of information contained.