

# Heritage in Schools

## First Class 2018

# Heritage in Schools – Creative Ireland

- Our project proposed to look at the natural environment of Vinegar Hill and extend its biodiversity into our own school environment.
- We also wanted to explore the history of Vinegar Hill and see how naturally occurring plants could have been used for both healing soldiers during the battle and help keep them nourished during the long days and nights.
- We needed to explore the wide variety of plants growing in our school – some of which are as a result of pollination.
- We made a plan of how we can extend and improve our school's biodiversity through the garden.

# Proposed Timeline

## Exploring and Investigating Work

- Day One – Exploring Vinegar Hill
- Day Two – Exploring the School Grounds

## Action Time!

- Day Three – Planting acorns and horse chestnuts – saplings can be grown in school grounds to extend the indigenous tree types, and preparing beds for Spring.
- Day Four – Planting flowering bulbs to encourage Spring biodiversity, preparing beds for Spring and also working on extending hedgerows.
- Day Five - Planting plants and flowers to encourage a more biodiverse school grounds

**DAY ONE**

# Team Talk Time!

Chatting about what we are looking for on Vinegar Hill, and how to be proper explorers and investigators.



# Vinegar Hill

derived from the Anglicisation of  
“Cnoc Fiodh na gCaor”

which means the “Hill of the Wood of the Berries”



We talked about the battle between Irish and English soldiers in 1798, and how the surrounding areas had an impact on the battle.



# Exploration Time!!

Looking for all types and varieties of plants that we can find growing on Vinegar Hill.



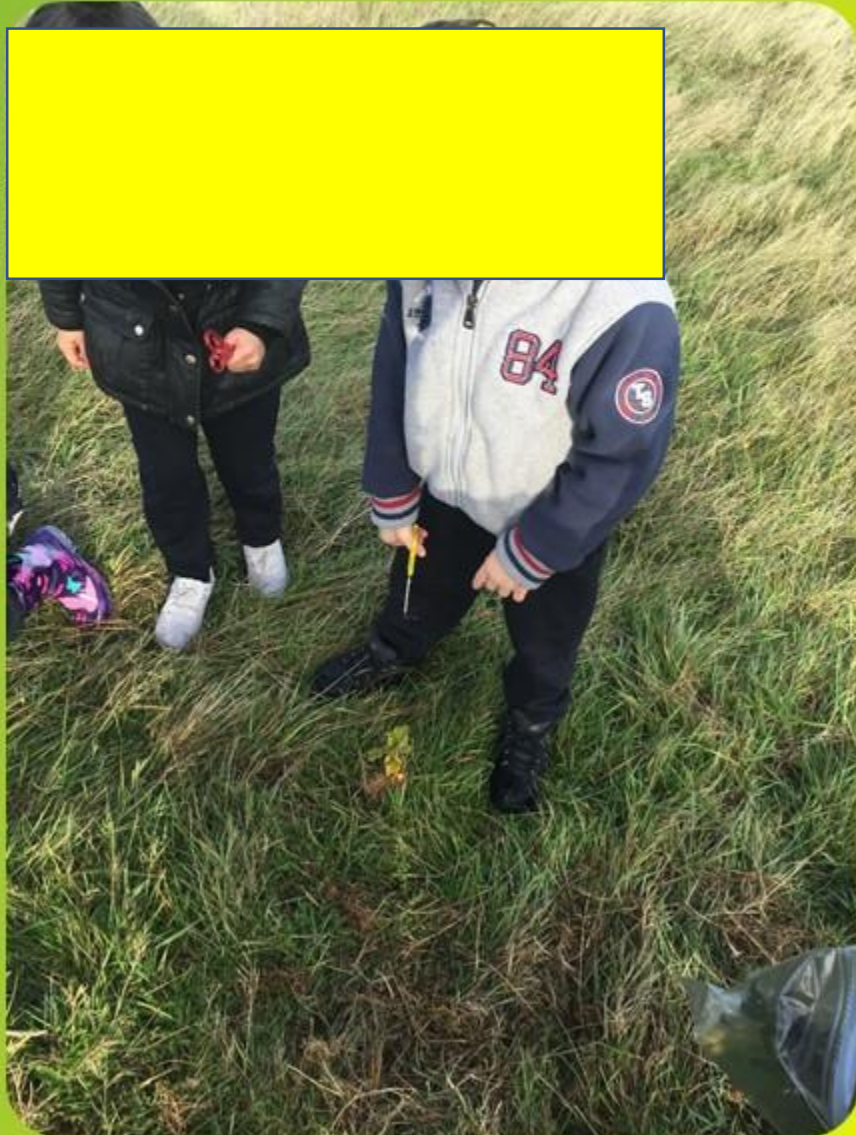


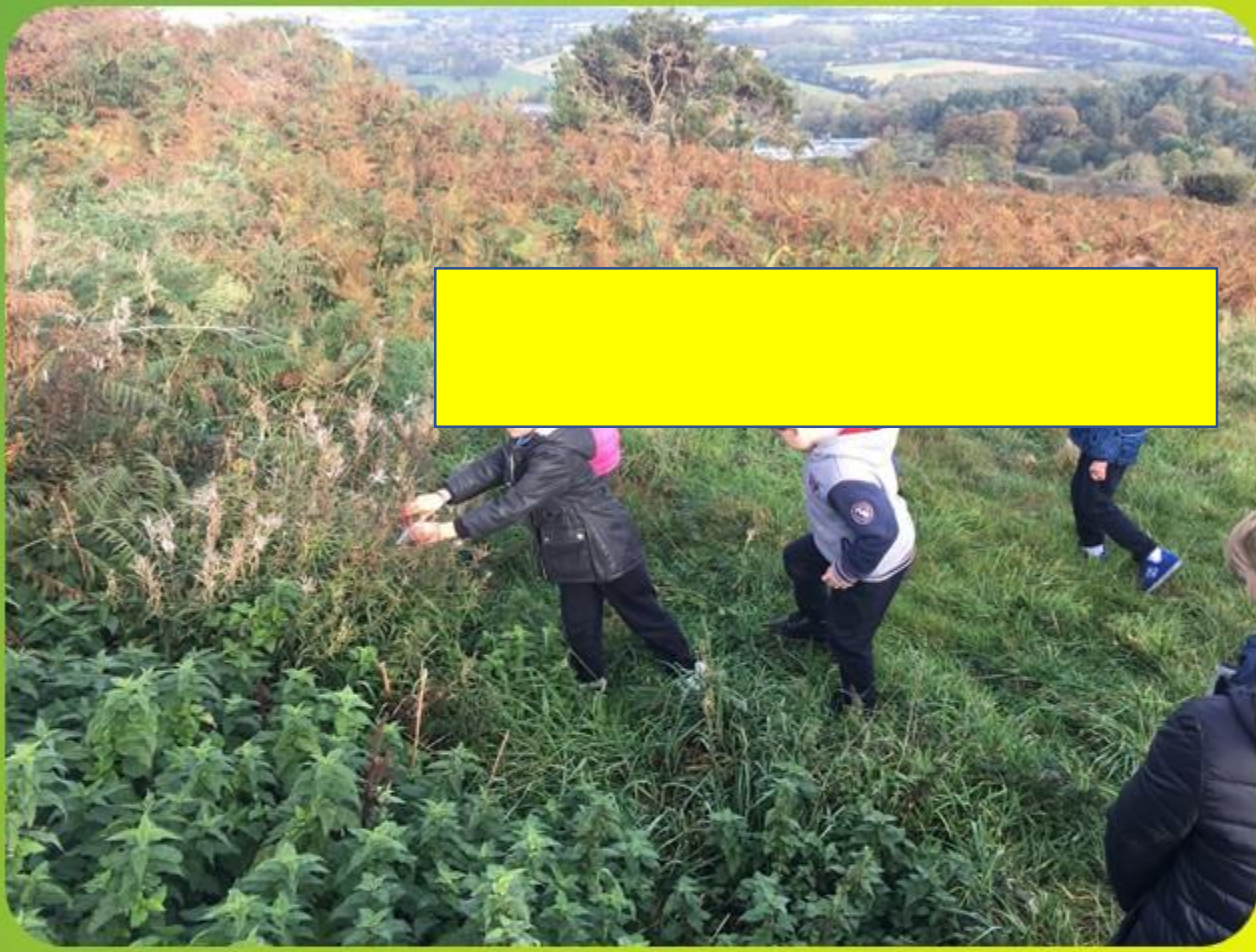


We found an edible plant called sorrell and tasted it!



We discovered an oak sapling growing!





We discovered the remains of the windmill on top of Vinegar Hill.





Our school, which is at the bottom of Vinegar Hill.





We re-enacted the battle on top of the Hill....





As we left Vinegar Hill, we saw the effects of a fire that happened in Summer on the furze and gorse.



# What plants did we discover?

- Broad leaved dock
- Rosebay willow herb
- Knapweed
- Narrow leaved plantain
- Sun spurge
- Red dead nettle
- White clover
- Red clover
- Narrow leaved plantain
- Herb Robert
- Groundsel
- Ragwort
- Fumitory
- Scarlet pimpernel
- Fuchsia
- Broad leaved plantain
- Sheep's sorrel
- Soft sow thistle
- Cow parsley
- Biting stonecrop
- Geranium sp.
- Cranes bill sp.
- Germander speedwell
- Hairy bitter cress
- Meadow vetchling
- Spanish gorse
- Oak seedlings
- Common tormentil
- Bush vetch
- Greater bird's-foot trefoil
- Dog violet
- White dead nettle
- Mallow sp.
- Common mallow
- Tree mallow
- Autumn hawksbit
- Bracken
- Yarrow
- Bramble
- Furze
- Elder
- Common sorrel
- Cleavers
- Creeping buttercup
- Common thistle
- Cocksfoot
- Stitchwort
- Stinging nettle
- Knapweed
- Common mouse ear
- Sheep's bit scabious
- Wood sage
- Common daisy

We also investigated the laneway to Vinegar Hill to see what naturally grows there.



# What plants did we discover?

- Woodsage
- Hedge woundwort
- Beech and nuts
- Broadleaved plantain
- Navelwort
- Dog rose
- Yarrow
- Common ivy
- Sun spurge
- Bramble
- Stinging nettle
- Broad leaved dock
- Bindweed
- Cleavers
- Cow parsley
- Fumitory
- Cocksfoot
- Buckler fern
- Bracken
- Pedunculated oak
- Honeysuckle
- Hawthorn
- Elder
- Red dead nettle
- Soft sow thistle
- Hedge mustard
- Greater birds foot trefoil
- Barren strawberry
- Common stitchwort
- Buckler fern





**DAY TWO**

# Exploring and Investigating the School Grounds





# What plants did we discover?

- New Zealand flax
- Groundsel
- Apple
- Beech
- Blackcurrant
- Bottle Brush
- Bracken
- Bramble
- Buddleia
- Calluna Vulgaris
- Carrot
- Charlock
- Chrysanthemum daisy
- Common St. John's Wort
- Cornish Heath
- Cotoneaster
- Curry plant
- Darwin's berberis
- Dog rose
- Elder
- Escalonia
- Flowering cherry
- Fumitory
- Fungus
- Guelder Rose
- Hawthorn
- Hazel
- Heather
- Holly
- Holm oak
- Ice plant
- Lettuce
- Maple
- Meadow sweet
- Nasturtium
- Nipplewort
- Oak
- Ornamental crab
- Parsley
- Parsnip
- Pedunculated oak
- Pine sp.
- Potentilla
- Purple barberry
- Reed dead nettle
- Rosemary
- Rowan
- Rush
- Salad burnet
- Silver birch
- Skimmia
- Spindle
- Sun splurge
- Sweet box
- Sycamore
- Tutsan
- Variegated Weigela
- Viburnum tinus
- Western cedar
- White barked birch
- White beam
- White clover
- Wild pansy
- Willow herb
- Wood sage



## What Did our Investigations tell Us?

We need to continue to develop our school's biodiversity by planting more insect attracting plants, trees that can produce fruit for small animals and also provide more opportunities for birds to make their homes. We also need to discover what plants can be grown for healing purposes.

# What Plants Should we Plant for Healing?

Plantain – healing properties, good for the skin

St. John's Wort – healing properties

Wild Geranium – antiseptic properties, blood stopping properties, wound healing properties

# What Plants Should we Plant to Promote Biodiversity?

Biting Stone Crop – nectar source

Wild Strawberries – seeds and nectar in blossoms

Helianthemum Rock Rose – nectar

Aster – nectar and seeds

Sea Thrift – nectar

Teasel – attracting bullfinch

Wood Avens - nectar

# What Plants Should we Plant to Promote Biodiversity?

Semper Virens – nectar

Phlox – nectar

Winter flowering Jasmine – food for winter flying insects

Dog Rose – hips and berries for animals and birds

Honeysuckle – berries and pollen

Dog Violet – nectar

Spring Flowering Bulbs – early pollination

# What Trees do we want to Grow to Promote Biodiversity?

Providing homes for small animals and birds and also a source of food

Beech

Spindles

Oak

Horse Chestnut

# How Can we Extend Hedgerow Biodiversity?

Planting thorny plants which are good for nesting.

Firethorn, Variegated and Native Hollies and Hawthorns are all good for attracting birds and providing berries for birds

Berberis – good for nesting, produces berries and nectar

Gorse – produces nectar and seeds

DAY THREE

# Team Talk Time!

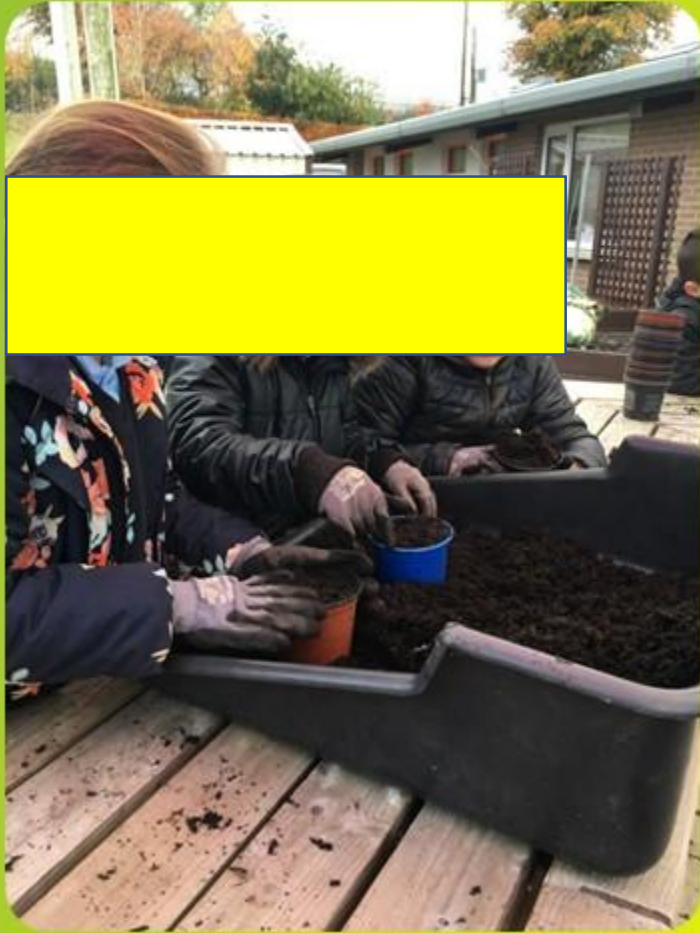
We talked about the different trees we saw in our locality – oak and horse chestnut trees.



Betsy showed us the right way to prepare pots for planting, and how to break up compost properly.



We planted acorns for oak trees to grow and  
conkers for horse chestnut trees to grow.



We planted them in pots, and when they are ready we can plant them into our school grounds.



**DAY FOUR**

We planted Spring flowering bulbs in the playground to attract early insects for pollination.





**DAY FIVE**

We spent time tidying up the garden after all our work, and leaving it clean for next Spring.





**A big thank you to Betsy and Anthony for all their work helping us in the garden doing our project.**

**First class absolutely loved working with you.**

**A big thank you also to Ms. Gleeson, Mr. McCauley and Ms Nolan, Rose, Maria and Sharon for all their help with the children too.**