Making Paper Pots

Curriculum Links

English

- Writing labels and reading/following instructions
- Labelling – always label and date your seeds when sowing inside and out. Also keep a garden notebook. It's easy to forget what you've sown, and you might want to sow the same variety next year.
- Language to describe what you are making, asking questions.
- Extension – start a garden notebook.
- **Reading:**
    - The Enormous Turnip: Ronnie Randall & Emma Dodd (2003)
    - Rosie Plants a Radish: Kate Petty & Alex Scheffler (1998)
    - Jasper's Beanstalk: Nick Butterworth & Mick Inkpen (1993)
    - The Tiny Seed: Eric Carle (1997)

Mathematics

- Counting seeds – how many do you need?
- Using fractions and percentages i.e. number of seeds that germinate.
- Estimate how much compost you will need.
- Measuring plant heights.
- Extension - Make a ruler for planting distances ready for once your seedling is ready to plant out.

Science

- Investigating what plants need in order to grow.
- What seeds need to germinate:
    1. Temperature – wait until the recommended month for sowing indoors or out (see seed packets and food growing instruction cards) You can also check the soil temperature using a soil thermometer or see when weeds start to grow.
    2. Moisture – Soil or compost should be moist, but not wet. Seed won't germinate when dry, while too much moisture causes them to rot and encourages fungal diseases.
    3. Light – Many seeds will germinate in either light or dark conditions. Once germinated they need good light, or they will become pale and straggly.
    4. Sowing depth – Generally cover large seeds with sieved compost or soil no deeper than twice their size. Very small seeds should be left uncovered or with a thin layer of vermiculite (a very fine mineral rock).
    5. Soil or compost – Use peat free potting compost or a well-prepared soil with a crumbly surface 'tilth'.
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- Observing the life cycle of a plant – seedlings get their initially energy from the seed and if the compost is too rich will grow leggy.
- Plant parts and their functions.
- What parts of different plants do we eat?
- Extension – make a light box.

Geography

- Where does your plant originate from?
- Map your growing area.
- Extension – why peat free compost?

Computing

- Input data e.g. seedling heights/time to produce graphs and charts.
- Investigate plant origins on internet.

PSHE & Citizenship

- Encourage friends / groups to make pots to grow different crops and compare.

Food Technology

- Consider when you are going to harvest your crop and how you will use it.
- Research recipes
- What foods can be eaten raw?

Art and Design

- Photograph your project over time and share.
- Extension - Make a light box; try making other types of pot e.g. origami; make your own origami seed packet; make a seed storage tin and decorate it.

Physical Education

- Get exercise outdoors when your seedlings are ready to plant.
- Learn about fruit and vegetables and healthy eating.

History

- Find out about old varieties of your crop.
- Study gardening through history e.g. dig for victory.