

NEWS RELEASE:

Patterdale C of E Primary School has been awarded a £300 grant from ECHO (Eden Communities, Homes and Organisations), the resident forum for Eden Housing Association. The school will be using the money to help create a kitchen garden.

Patterdale's school children, parents, grandparents and members of the local community have been invited to become involved in developing the school's kitchen garden. The aim of the project is to help the school kitchen become more self sufficient by growing their own produce to serve at lunchtime. It is hoped that by growing their own vegetables the children will learn a great deal including:



- What plants need to grow,
- The time, care and patience required,
- Developing new tastes for vegetables (they are more likely to eat the vegetables if they have grown themselves),
- Understand the environmental and financial benefits of growing their own produce,

Work on the kitchen garden will take place both in school time and at the after school club. Initially this will involve the construction of raised beds and fencing in the garden to keep out sheep, badgers and rabbits. It is hoped that eventually the group will have their own greenhouse to grow fruit alongside the vegetables.

"Members of ECHO were keen to support the project because in addition to providing fresh vegetables to be enjoyed at lunchtime it helps bring the community together too," said Heidi Ware, Eden Housing Association's Team Leader for Resident Involvement, "we look forward to going back to Patterdale later this summer to see how things are developing".

Liz Stewart, Head Teacher said "it's brilliant that ECHO can support small communities such as ours. With such a small school it is difficult to generate enough money to get this type of project off the ground so this type of grant is invaluable. It is truly a community project involving everyone here."

Presenting the cheque is Eileen Soulsby Chair of ECHO and John Denwood now a Tenant Board Member for Eden Housing Association and keen member of the ECHO team, who in his earlier days was a pupil at the school!

ECHO allocates £2,500 per year to award via the grants scheme and is keen to hear from other community groups that may benefit. If anyone would like more information on how to apply for a grant please contact Heidi Ware Team Leader Housing and Resident Involvement on 01768 861419 or email on heidi.ware@edenha.org.uk

Picture: Eileen Soulsby Chair of ECHO and John Denwood, Tenant Board Member for Eden Housing Association present the cheque to Anne Gibson - School Cook at Patterdale C of E Primary School watched by pupils and members of the ECHO Committee