



Dig this: Cotswold School pupils Liam Ross and Sophie Hooper, both 7, operate a produce stall selling vegetables pupils have grown in the school's no-dig vegetable garden.

Green-fingered pupils get growing fresh veges

Cotswold School in Bishopdale must have the cheapest vegetables in town. A small after-school stall is selling produce from its garden beds for as little as 50 cents – a spin-off from school lessons in where vegetables come from. Each Thursday from 2.45pm, front gate vegetable sales are flourishing as entrepreneurial students sell tomatoes, lettuces, spinach, pumpkin and salad vegetables for a song as a means of continuing the school's green-fingered endeavours.

The school gardening club is made up of two students from each of the 20 classrooms each

term who take responsibility for maintaining the school's eight raised vegetable beds which went in while the school started a unit of inquiry entitled "Let's Dig It" last year.

Teacher Liz Davies said before the gardening lessons began, some children had never seen real, raw vegetables or knew that they came from the ground.

"In the middle of term one, after the donation of some produce from a local greengrocer, junior school teacher Liz Laphorne set about sourcing non-treated timber to make some boxed beds," Ms Davies said.

The great garden construction

challenge was born and year 4, 5 and 6 pupils were chosen to put these garden beds together in the fastest time.

"Two minutes and 19 seconds was the winning time. It was fantastic to see classes working together and filling the beds with compost and pea straw for a no-dig garden style."

Each classroom raised seedlings, learnt a lot about keeping plants alive and worked the garden to produce some very healthy vegetables.

"Any money raised goes back into the garden," Ms Davies said.