

St John's and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee at The Tower of London



BE AT HOME AMONGST THE BEES AND BUTTERFLIES

Designed to attract pollinators, *Superbloom* at the **Tower of London** will bring a spectacular natural beauty to the City of London and introduce a new biodiverse habitat for wildlife. Immerse yourself in the sights and smells of nature as you weave through the wondrous blooms and willow walkways.

St. John's C of E Primary is one of 1,500 schools participating in this year's Superbloom run by the Historic Royal Palaces and the Tower of London to enhance their pupil's learning about planting, nature, and its connection to well-being.

The school received 12x packets of seeds including Dill, Cornflower, Pot Marigold, Paper Daisy, Toadflax as well as the Shirley Poppy just to name a few.

Years 1 and 2 cultivated the ground by the Ark Playground before broadcast sowing the seeds. The aim is to create a mixture of colours, textures and forms so that there is a long season of interest for people and pollinators alike. This project was kickstarted by the school's EcoClub, run by Susanne Haynes on Wednesdays and Thursdays after school, and have joined Bernard Maguire in our churchyard several times recently to carry out their EcoClub studies. Susanne will also be volunteering at the Tower during June - September to help visitors experience the very best of this immersive floral spectacular.

The Tower of London Superbloom will be a colourful, dramatic, and vibrant field of flowers to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen at the Tower of London. From June onwards, over 20 million seeds will erupt into an explosion of colour which you can walk amongst whilst enjoying a specially commissioned soundscape, with sculptural elements to make you feel at home amidst the bees and butterflies.

Susanne will also be working with Year 5 as part of the RHS' Grow Well project which is designed to highlight and share the wellbeing benefits and positive power of plants. The children will be sowing and growing *Calendula officinalis*, also known as pot marigolds. The common pot marigold has been used medicinally throughout history thanks to the flower's anti-inflammatory properties. Plus, as one of the oldest of all cultivated flowers, its bright and beautiful blooms have been celebrated worldwide throughout history. The children will then be able to share their plants with family and friends or keep them for themselves and learn how to care for this small but mighty plant. Susanne has planted hundreds around the school so that everyone can enjoy them come summertime.

