

# Alison Binmore

## Wells Park School



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**W**ells Park became involved with the Food for Life Partnership programme earlier this year.

It's great for the school as we all work together from our various different areas for one common goal.

It has given the catering team opportunities to attend training courses at Ashlyn's Kitchen, and to attend seminars and courses at different schools where suppliers, catering staff and school staff can get together and find out how others are progressing with the Food for Life Partnership programme. I was very impressed with one school where the chairman of the local allotment society was helping with their growing club.

With some of the money we have received we are buying some fruit trees, and we have built five raised planting areas which actually look like burial mounds! We have been told by

the Head of Care that as the catering department is the only team consisting of five staff maybe we should be worried!

I think we are the only school in Essex with its own grape vines. This year we harvested 13kg of grapes and the children have been pressing their own grape juice.

The children really enjoy growing their own fruit and veg and whatever they bring in to the kitchen we include in the menu.

We are busy building a new kitchen and dining area for the children to use so they can cook a meal and invite family and friends to share it with them.

We are inviting people from our local community as well as staff and contractors working in school to help the children prepare any special recipes they may have.

We are looking forward to the cookery bus visiting us in March and we will be theming the school menu that week on vegetarian food to fit in with the bus.

Being a Flagship school we have lots of backup and visits from our regional coordinator Ian Knutt. It was on one of these visits that Ian offered to dress up as a turkey at our Christmas lunch – but we didn't take him up on the offer!