

24/04/2025

Stronger Starts.

Fruit & Veg for Schools



April newsletter

Spring has sprung- and as the Tesco Fruit and Veg programme continues into the Easter term, we hope you are looking forward to finding new, exciting fruit and veg products in store as they come into season!

So far, pupils have enjoyed over 6,454,639 portions of fruit and veg with the most popular items being Apples, Bananas, & Kiwi but some of you have also been trying some of the weird and wonderful types in store- Have you tried a persimmon?

What is the most interesting fruit or veg you have tried in your school? Be sure to tell us in the April monitoring report which is now live- submit your information by April 24th 2025 to ensure we can gather all the information we need to continue your funding.

We hope this newsletter is keeping you up-to-date with the latest 'Fruit & Veg for Schools news- do you have any bright ideas or information you want to know? Be sure to let us know! The team is here to support you every step of the way, so if you have any questions or feedback, please contact us at fruit.for.schools@tesco.com.

Henry
Tesco Relationship Manager, Fruit & Veg for Schools

Funding for the 2025/2026 Academic year

We are happy to announce that Tesco has committed another £4 million, to extend Tesco Fruit & Veg for Schools for the next academic year, providing schools across the UK with access to fruit and vegetables every day.

It is thanks to the participation and support of schools like yours, which have demonstrated the programme's success and provided valuable insights, that we are able to continue the funding.

If you would like to continue to receive the funding, please remember to signify this as part of the Easter term monitoring report which is now live, to confirm your involvement for the 25/26 academic year.

School Spotlight

A huge thank you to **Ferndale Community School** for allowing us to join in with their healthy cooking class in February and helping us highlight the scheme as part of a feature in The Express.

Pupils got involved in making healthy wraps for lunch time, and even discovered veggies they hadn't seen before



Do you have photos or feedback from your students and their parents? Tell us [here](#) or use #StrongerStarts to share your social media posts and see what other schools are up to!

Educational Resources

Don't forget! We have lots of educational resources available for you to download from our portal [HERE](#): Some of our favourites are

- [Ambassador Pack](#)
- [Pick and Mix activity pack](#)
- [Classroom tracker](#)

Oral health

Did you know that **one in four 5-year-olds in the UK have visible tooth decay?**

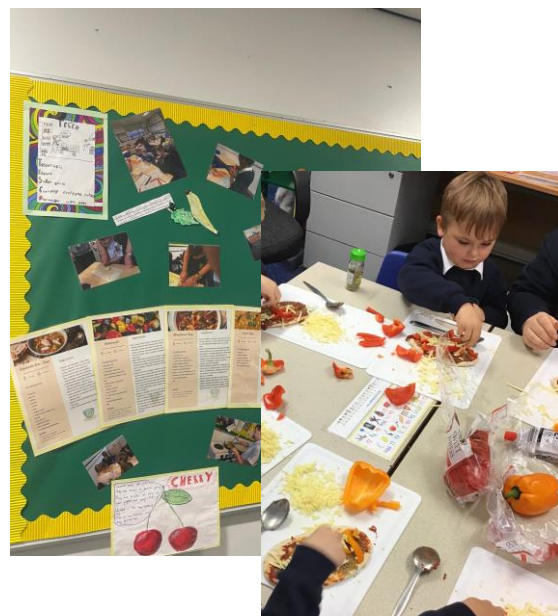
We have been working with Aquafresh, in collaboration with curriculum experts, teachers, and dental healthcare professionals to bring you 'Shine Bright' oral health education resources to help kids learn how to protect their teeth for life.

Coming May 2025!

Berry good ideas!

We have seen some amazingly creative ideas coming from schools participating in the Fruit & Veg scheme, and how they are making a difference to children's habits. Here are a few we have heard so far:

- **PE pick me up:** Watermelon is great for nutrition and hydration after strenuous activity, schools are handing watermelon pieces at the end of PE lessons to aid recovery after strenuous activity!
- **Civic responsibility skills:** Senior pupils are taking on the responsibility of gathering ideas and votes to decide what fruit and veg their classmates will receive for the week ahead.
- **Tasty homework:** Why not take inspiration from St Paul's RC Primary School, and set holiday homework where pupils try make their own vegetable soup at home, building basic cooking skills whilst having a nutritious and tasty home cooked meal.
- **Travel by taste:** Reading a book that involves fruit and veg? Why not enhance the children's experience by tasting the fruit and veg they are hearing about in the book!
- **Colourful day:** SEND schools are telling us how they love hosting colour days, allowing pupils to experience a specific colour of fruit & veg, getting used to the texture, smell and taste of the products



Extra funding for cooking clubs

Need pots and pans? Bowls and spoons? We have teamed up with The Sun, to introduce 'Cooking for All' grants for schools and community groups. The Cooking for All Fund is offering 1,000 grants to 150 schools/groups to set up or increase access to cooking clubs for young people aged 16 and under.

Schools or organisations can apply to tescostrongerstarts.org.uk/cookingfund. Applications will close at noon on Friday 30 May 2025.



Plastic to planters!

Many of you will be receiving planters, soil and seeds from us in the next couple of weeks- We are so excited to see what you grow and how you integrate conversations about how food is grown with your students

The planters you are receiving are made from over 625,000 pieces of recycled soft plastic waste that our customers have dropped back at our stores all over the country- from bread bags to crisp packets, they are now getting a new lease of life in your school!

Got some great pictures? Be sure to send these across to fruit.for.schools@tesco.com for a chance to feature on our social channels.

A Recipe for success!

Fancy some more inspiration? We have heard from schools that you want more quick, simple, healthy and easy recipes that you use while teaching or can share with parents. We have worked with the British Nutrition Foundation to bring you a list of recipes that you could try, that are nutritious, healthy and tasty!

Need more? Try [Food – a fact of life](#) or [Tesco Real Food](#) for more inspiration.

[Ratatouille](#)

[Basic tomato sauce](#)

[Spicy chickpea filled jacket potato](#)

[Spinach, potato and chickpea curry](#)

[Mushroom and chickpea curry](#)

[Coleslaw](#)

[Hummus and carrot wraps](#)

[Hummus](#)

[Veggie snacks](#)

[Dippy divers](#)

[Crunchy chickpea sandwich](#)

[Vegetable couscous](#)



Soups:

[Minestrone](#)

[Spicy Tomato](#)

[Vegetable](#)

[Tomato, Bean & Paste](#)

[Mulligatawny](#)

Want more inspiration?

Find all of Poppy's recipes inspired by the Fruit & Veg for Schools programme including slow cooker recipes and more at: [Poppy O'Toole | Tesco Real Food](#)

Answers to your questions

Find frequently asked questions below:

Do I have to use the gift card in one go?

No, you can shop as often as you'd like. The gift cards will be topped up every two weeks, but we recommend you check the balance before doing a shop to make sure there's enough on the card.

Do I have to use the gift card in one store?

No, the gift card can be used in any Tesco store. We strongly recommend you shop in a large Superstore or Extra so there's enough quantities available.

Does the funding disappear every two weeks or at the end of term?

No, the funding will remain on the gift card until the end of the academic year.

How will I know my card is topped up?

If you've added your gift card to Apply Pay or Google Pay, you'll receive a notification when the card is topped up. Alternatively, you can check the balance of your Tesco Gift Card online at any time. Simply enter the 19-digit card number and PIN to see your balance and most recent transactions.

What if I have purchased some items, which aren't part of the programme?

Please tell us as soon as possible by contacting fruit.for.schools@tesco.com so we can understand what has happened.

REMEMBER! You can email Henry with any questions you may have, he's always happy to help.

