

TEACH, INSPIRE & PROTECT 2018-2021

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

ST NICHOLAS COLLEGE
MĠARR PRIMARY SCHOOL
MALTA



PRESENTATION BY - **THERESA RODGERS** – ASSISTANT HEAD OF SCHOOL – 27.1.2020, SPAIN

LTL Training - London, UK – November 2019

- ▶ The aim of this **Training the Trainer** course was to plan how to broaden and support wider use of the outdoors with practitioners working with 3-6 year-olds. It also gave us more low cost practical and creative ideas how this could be done. In conclusion each partner was to plan its way forward.

MGARR PRIMARY planned to do the following:

- ▶ ENHANCE OUR OUTDOOR SPACES
- ▶ TRAIN OUR STAFF VIA COPE SESSIONS
- ▶ GET PARENTS AND LOCAL COUCIL ON BOARD
- ▶ **CREATE A TRANSITION AREA**
- ▶ **SHARE OUR GOOD PRACTICE WITH COLLEGE NETWORK**





Learning through Landscapes - training in UK – Nov 2019



ENHANCING OUR OUTDOOR SPACES



- Last year we started to enhance our backyard with the introduction of planters, tool shed with water catchment tank, a working bench, tyres and several loose parts for the early years.

Learning
experiences
held in the
back yard



At the beginning of this scholastic year (Sept 2019) maintenance works were carried out to the playing area (all woodwork was repaired and repainted)



- The rubber tiled flooring which has suffered considerable damage from exposure and is presently unsafe will be replaced by artificial turf .

The wooden fencing around the football pitch was treated, fixed and given a fresh coat of paint. Moreover the existing artificial turfed surface, which has suffered considerable wear and tear, will be replaced with a new one.



However that was not enough. We needed to think harder and make the best out of what we had. A small grass area lying idle behind the football pitch, which was uneven and hard to dig, was levelled out and weeded by Green Club enthusiasts.

**Green Club
members
volunteered for
the job**



**An abandoned site
was weeded and
levelled out**



**Finished area will be used
for planting herbs and other
greens (kids have shown a
keen interest in cultivating
crops)**

VISIT BY BIRDLIFE MALTA

— Further assistance was sought to consider structural changes especially to the internal yard. This is used as a kindergarten playing area. It is also occasionally used as an assembly area so the space is needed.



Walls to be painted light green, planters to be installed along the walls to introduce greenery

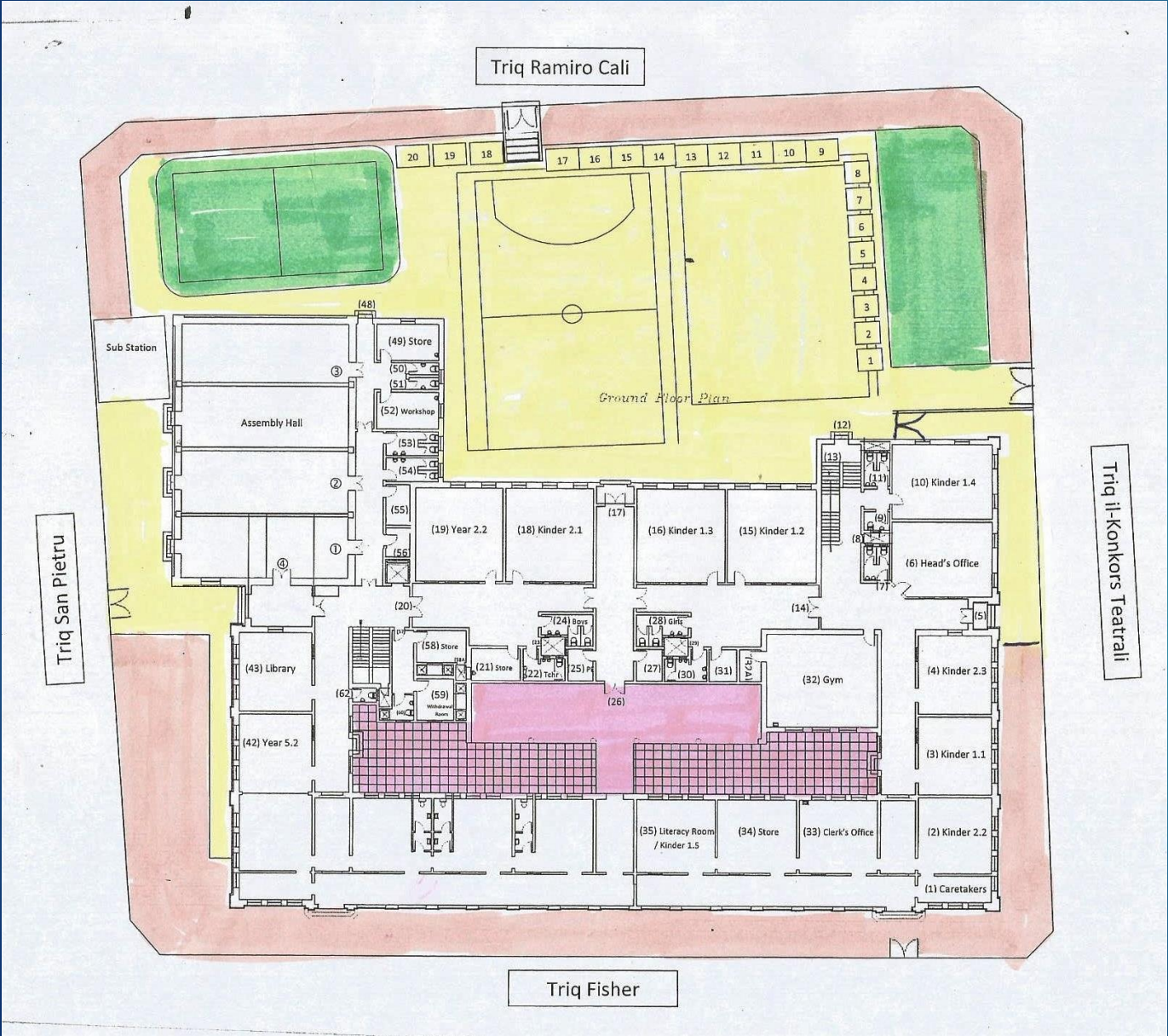


Possible long meandering flower bed to be introduced in the middle of the yard



Water draining from rooftop possibly to be collected in tanks and used for irrigation of planters

Floor plan of Mgarr Primary School showing outdoor spaces



Soil with trees



External Yard



Internal Yard



Football Pitch



Playing area

Further suggestions by consultant: enhancement of other areas presently not being utilised



Creeping flowering plants to line the boundary wall situated on the West side along St Peter's Street (to keep out pollution and invite fauna) - Hedgerows to be planted around the soil area



Unused concrete floored area behind hall possibly to be used as a tricycle play ground



Soil area along the school façade to be sectioned and given to each year group to work out as they deem fit

CARING FOR WHAT WE HAVE



Area sectioned for cultivation by kindergarten children



Pruning of palm trees in the front garden

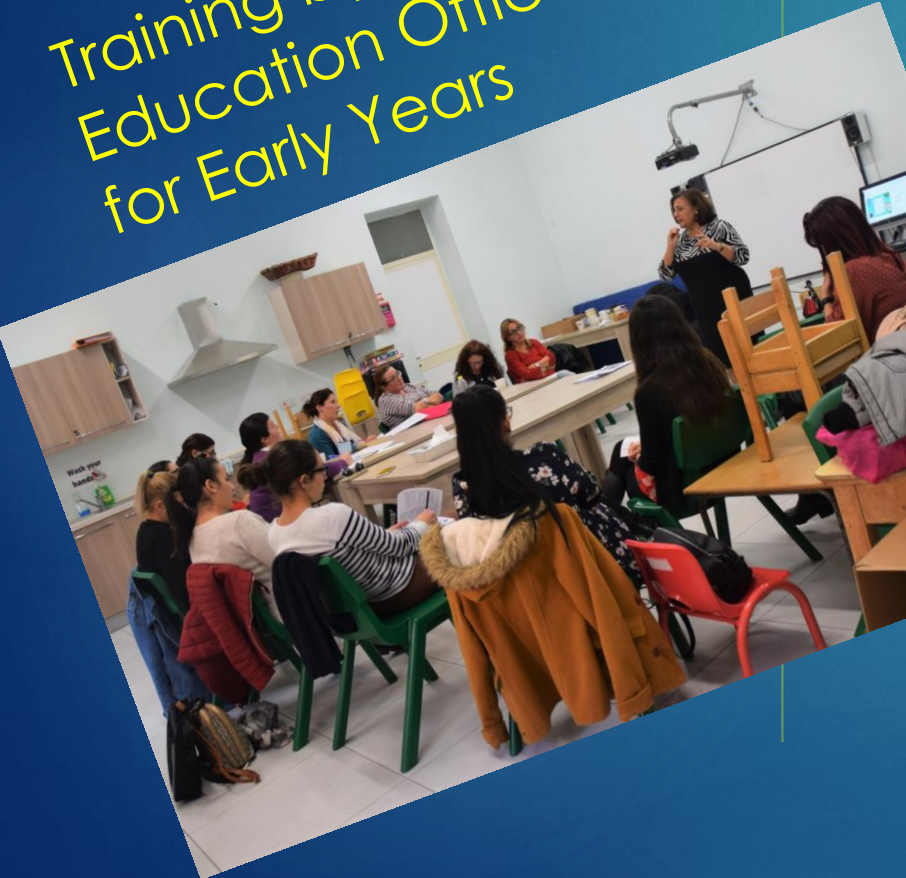


Dead palm tree felled to create open space and ensure safety of other palm trees

FURTHER TRAINING TO OUR STAFF 21.11.2019

The theme of this training session was: How can we improve our outdoor spaces bearing in mind our children's preferences?

Training by
Education Officer
for Early Years



Possibilities ^{dreams}

- mud kitchen / bags of clay (natural)
- climbing walls / ropes (tree to tree)
- Zip line
- Tyre Paths
- Tunnels
- Sensory garden + music wall
- Sand pit (wooden pit)
- Walking beams (train)
- Climbing walls
- Tents (camping)
- Kazzoli / Borom + lins
- Red pavement bricks
- Carrots bags.

Some suggestions

Teachers giving their feedback





On-site inspection and suggestions

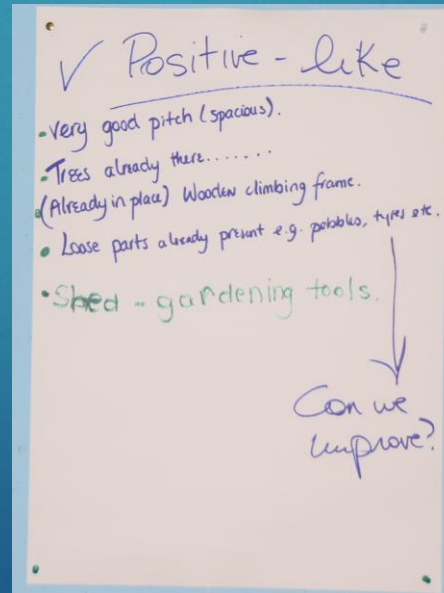


Inspecting dangerous spots

Staff training
21 Nov 2019



Training by Educational Officer Early Years



Feedback by participants

Getting parents on board

More talks for parents of early years' children were carried out - 15 Nov 2019



In the meantime more learning experiences are taking place in the outdoors

Preparing to sow herbs
for Open Day - Yr2



Free play with loose parts – Yr1



Hands-on learning - Kg





MATHS TRAIL & Social Studies fieldwork at Ta' Hagraat Temples - Mgarr

Take advantage of what you have and go beyond the school walls!



Integration of Maltese heritage with outdoor learning



Fieldwork about our village



Involving the Local Council: Tree-planting activity at Ras-il-Gebel

24th January 2020



Sowing acorns for next year



RAS IL-GEBEL Ghajn Tuffieħa

Introducing indigenous trees by A.C.T



The mayor leading the way ↘



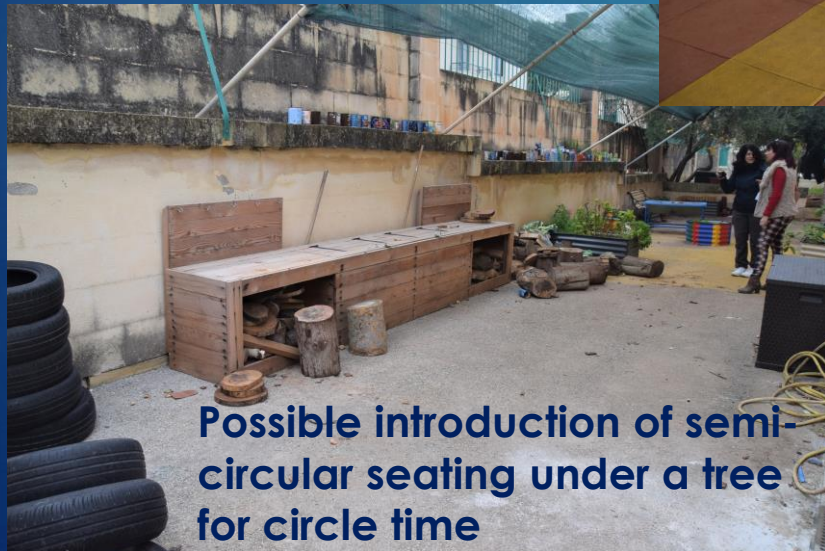
The Local Council has already been involved in our project and will be supporting us along the way. In January 2020 our students were invited to do the planting of several indigenous trees in the locality.

FUTURE PLANS - Open Day and Parents' Day

On Parents Day(6.3.2020) and Open Day (13.3.2020) parents will be shown around the school to appreciate our open spaces and the work being done. They will be asked to give suggestions how we can make better use of the existent space according to their children's preferences.



Climbing wall to be installed at the end of carpeted area above



Possible introduction of semi-circular seating under a tree for circle time



Floor games to be painted across the big yard

FROM PROJECT ➡ POLICY ➡ ACTION

In our next School Development Plan our first ACTION PLAN is going to be:

Developing higher order thinking skills through STEM using the outdoors

SCIENCE (science experiments/star gazing)

TECHNOLOGY (unplugged coding activities)

ENGINEERING (building bridges)

MATHEMATICS (Maths trails – Kgs ➡ Yr6)



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!



The Staff Celebrating Pink October



Presentation by St Nicholas College – MGARR PRIMARY SCHOOL - 27th January 2020
Email: snc.mgarr.pr@ilearn.edu.mt Website: