

Year 2: We look after the STRAWBERRIES.

Why?	Because we make frozen strawberry yogurt pots in Term 3.
Important time number1	Plant new strawberry "runners" (if needed) in SEPTEMBER. (New plants are only needed every three years.)
How do we plant them?	Dig the ground. Remove any weeds. Apply chicken manure. Plant the runners carefully so that their roots are just beneath the soil. Water them. If planting in pots use John Innes Number 3 compost.
What do we do next?	Water the plants twice every week in September. Water during October if the ground is dry.
Do we get a rest?	Yes! From November until March the strawberries can be left to grow - just check they are not dry every so often and pull out any weeds that have grown.
Important time number2	Weed around the strawberries in March then apply more chicken manure.
Important time number3	Feed the strawberries with tomato plant food once every week in April.
What do we do next?	From the end of April check every week. Pull out any weeds. Water if dry. When you see little green strawberries starting to grow tuck dry straw underneath the plants - this will help to stop the fruit getting wet and soggy.(If growing in pots you don't need the straw.)
When can we eat them?	When the strawberries have turned red - from June onwards.
And then?	When the strawberries have been picked carefully pull out the straw, cut off any dead leaves and put them on the compost heap. If you want to grow new plants look for "runners". These are little plants growing on the end of long stalks. Carefully put the runner into a small pot of compost - DO NOT CUT IT FROM THE LONG STALK. Keep it watered and you should have new plants in a few weeks. If you do not want new plants cut off the long stalks as soon as you see them.