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Improving outdoor playtimes

Dear Children, Parents and Governors,

Did you know that 20% of their school week is made up of dinnertimes and playtimes? We feel that this time should be seen as important as classroom time, as outdoor play develops social skills, communication skills, physical health and can contribute to positive mental health.

Over the next year, we will be developing our outdoor play offer, making playtimes a fun learning experience for all children.

Phase 1 - We are very lucky to have received a grant to improve biodiversity in the schoolgrounds and this money will be spent to creating a biodiversity garden at the front of school, which will include;

- A pond to attract wildlife (safety cover on the top)
- Wildflower garden
- Vegetable patch
- Planters with climbing plants and grasses

The garden will be able to be used by children at playtimes, supervised by staff and also for lessons.

Phase 2 – To improve the existing facilities. This will include;

- Adding sensory plants, benches and dens to the wild life garden in the corner of the field
- Putting new bark on the trim trail.
- Adding new bark and cleaning up the fenced off area at the back of the field, this will become a 'loose parts play' area.
- Adding a mud kitchen next to the hut on the field
- Creating a role play house in the hut

Phase 3 - Purchasing new resources and adding to the trim trail

We are hoping to start phases 1 and 2 just before the end of term and are going to include pupils in all aspects of it, including the big clean up!

If you have any questions, please ask.

Kind Regards

Abigail Facchin
Deputy Head and SENDCo