

21st June 2019

Outdoor Classroom Day

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM DAY

During the week beginning 20th May, the entire school took part in Outdoor Classroom Day for the third year. Each class went outside and completed an activity using the school grounds. Each class had a great time and it was fantastic to see such fabulous learning taking place in the open spaces we are lucky to have. When asked about their experiences, a

Y5/6 said, "The treasure hunt was really fun! I learnt that you have to listen to the instructions and carefully read the clues to win the prize." A Y3/4K pupil said, "I enjoyed looking at the insects and seeing what they do and where they go." Another pupil stated, "I loved hiding from the birds in the Watcher Bird activity."

Overall, the week was a great success and it has been amazing to hear that some have gone on to repeat activities at home with their family and friends. As being outdoors helps us focus, boosts creativity and imagination and can simply be more fun, we will continue to promote the use of outdoors for playing and learning in school.



Y4

Outdoor classroom day in Year 4 was a very enjoyable experience. After being sorted into teams, each team drew a maze using chalk on the playground floor. Each group had to make sure that they used teamwork to have the most successful outcome. The maze had to meet the success criteria that was set for this task and had to be wide enough for a classmate to navigate through it.

Y1/2

In Year 1/2 we had a very exciting afternoon! We went out on the field and hunted for various materials to make moustaches. We used grass, daisies, twigs and leaves. Afterwards we hunted for bugs in small groups and followed their journeys. A butterfly was flying peacefully but fluttered away from us probably feeling anxious. A greenfly sat calmly on a child's hand. We decided it was happy and brave. An ant was moving quickly through the leaves on the ground and we thought it might feel hot working so hard on a sunny day.



Y5

For outdoor learning day in Year 5, we decided to focus our learning on our topic - Shake, Rattle and Roll. In this topic we have learnt about mountains and volcanoes and their locations around the world. The children's task was to complete a volcanic or mountain landscape based on our prior knowledge. We were split into groups and each group had various amounts of material to produce their landscapes. After creating their landscape each group was asked to label the different parts of the mountain or volcano. To finish, we had to use atlases and our geography skills to identify where their landscape was on the world map. The children thoroughly enjoyed this activity and it showed off our fantastic knowledge of this topic.

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Y2

In Year 2 we learned to appreciate that wildlife need a safe route to travel from one habitat to another by using a fun, highly visual and interactive parachute- game. We used 2 tarpaulins to represent fragmented meadow habitat. The challenge was to pass insects (waffle balls) from the first tarpaulin meadow to the second across a 2m gap signifying an uninhabitable area. This gap was then replaced with a third tarpaulin to act as a wildlife corridor. It was a fantastic activity in the sun!

Y1

In Year 1 we made lots of bird cakes using a variety of seeds and lard. We worked within our groups to take turns mixing the ingredients, placing them into the tubs and attaching the string. We enjoyed waiting for them to set. We then found special places to hang them to feed the birds.

Y3/4G

Year 3/4G completed the 'Follow an Insect' activity on the school field. This activity helped the children imagine the world from another perspective. We discussed what felt different and what felt the same.

Year 3/4G completed the 'Watcher Bird' activity on the school field. This activity was about physical dexterity, spatial awareness and team work. We enjoyed spotting the different types of birds that crossed our path!

Y3/4P

Year 3/4P practised our map work skills by finding a paper man hidden each day. First we hid the men for another group and marked it on a map of the school. We then progressed to finding men marked on a map with just one person seeing the map in each group. Finally, we had to find buried men using the maps precisely. We really enjoyed it and honed our mapping skills too!

Y5/6

In Year 5/6 we thoroughly enjoyed our outdoor classroom day. First of all, we explored the weeds on our school grounds. We discussed the variety of weeds we found and discussed what a weed is. We all decided that weeds are beautiful and make the world a brighter and better place. As a result, we created poems to convince others that weeds are not only beautiful but very important to nature. We discovered that there are many benefits to weeds such as bringing nutrients and water up from deep in the soil and subsequently make them available to microbes and plants. They also increase the organic matter content of the soil as they continually grow and die.

Y6

In Year 6 we mapped the school grounds from the perspective of a chosen living organism. We had to assess the space from our animal's perspective and identify assets and barriers which we then included them on a map of the school grounds.

