

Subject Report

Teacher: Samantha Hindle and Adam Todd

Subject: Outdoor Learning/Forest School

Date: 20.05.2025

We have had an incredibly busy year this year regarding outdoor learning and forest school. We have had a huge push on classes using the outdoor class room more consistently and using it to teach lessons from all parts of the curriculum. Samantha and Adam have provided all staff with a Wednesday evening training session as well as a full days inset day in February, to help show all staff the importance of outdoor learning and provide skills and knowledge to ensure it is being effectively taught throughout school.

Following the training sessions, classes have been using outdoor learning more consistently throughout all areas of the curriculum and this can be seen on Evidence Me with people using the 'Outdoor Learning' tag and through a few photographs below. The children have taken part in two whole school classroom events one in November and December where each class provided an activity and each class enjoyed a time slot in the outdoor classroom to explore. This was a big hit with both staff and pupils and received some fantastic feedback with the school council asking for outdoor learning to be part of Children's mental health week prompting another event to take place in the outdoor classroom in late January to celebrate.

We have also now got our own forest school area at the front of the campus and this has been used by some lucky classes and Adam Todd a trained Forest School Leader has been taking these sessions this Summer term. The pupils have all loved these sessions and have really got involved regardless of which curriculum they are following in school. All pupils have engaged and shown enthusiasm. Samantha is currently undertaking her Level 3 Forest School Training and hopefully from September will also provide forest school sessions which will enable all classes to benefit from a full terms worth of forest school sessions. This is planned to complement outdoor learning and also follow a more child led, nurture approach to continue to add to the work we do as a whole school regarding nurture and trauma informed practices. In addition to this Adam Todd is going to be undertaking training in Advanced Wilderness Therapeutic Approaches which again upon completion will offer interventions for children identified to need more focused interventions who may have been effected by ACES, trauma and attachment. Samantha and Adam are both looking at ways to assess forest school using a holistic observation tool which encompasses the ethos of forest school and will create a whole child picture of progress, measuring engagement, participation, curiosity, persistence, investigation and initiation as well as looking at a skills based progression document to use alongside each other.

Here are a few photos of our children accessing both outdoor learning and our new forest school area.

