

Outdoor learning at The Hawthorns



What are the benefits of Outdoor learning?

Outdoor learning is a multisensory approach to learning which supports children's physical and emotional development through outdoor play, exploration and both child and adult led activities.

It helps the children to develop their independence and promotes self esteem.

It can help reduce anxiety, builds resilience and can help children communicate in a more effective way.

The children are encouraged to take and manage risks, supporting child initiated learning through exploration and play.

Children learn to respect, care for and help to sustain the environment around them.



Safety

Risk assessments are reviewed regularly.

The forest area is maintained and checked by the Outdoor Learning teacher.

Safety procedures are taught to children and are part of every session.

All sessions are planned carefully, but also support element of child initiated play.



How does it work?

It is run by our specialist Outdoor Learning Teacher, Mrs Clark, and supported by school staff. Children are invited to spend a block of afternoon sessions for half a term at a time learning outdoors. We welcome Parent helpers support with running the sessions. If you would like to help please contact the office!



Activities

Activities are planned weekly and built upon during the year. These help to give the children more confidence and the chance to explore the activities independently. Tools are introduced and these activities are supported by the outdoor learning teacher.

Activities include :

Den building, orienteering, crafting, digging and planting, role play, using tools, wildlife observations, conservation of our area, physical challenges and much more!

Many of the activities that we take part in during outdoor learning are initiated by the children and supported if required by the adults.



What should you wear?

Children will be outside in all weathers (unless there is a severe weather warning or it is deemed to be unsafe by the outdoor learning teacher). It is important for the children to feel comfortable and not be concerned about getting dirty.

In wet and cold weather, make sure that your child has plenty of layers and we recommend waterproof all in ones or trousers and coats to protect the children during their sessions. Wellies or a change of shoes/boots are also required.

In warm weather please ensure that your child still has clothes that will protect them in the forest (trousers/thin long sleeved tops), that they have a hat and already have applied sun cream.

