

# Curriculum Newsletter



Welcome to our second Curriculum Newsletter. Each half term, we will send you a newsletter explaining more about an area of our curriculum. This will hopefully give you a deeper insight into our curriculum and how your child is being supported in their learning and development. Our curriculum is based on Froebelian Principles, influenced by the early years educator Friedrich Froebel who developed the Kindergarten. An important part of our curriculum is outdoor learning. Spending time outdoors, provides many learning opportunities for young children and is essential for their health and wellbeing. Being outside is more than just 'letting off steam' or having a run around. We place great importance on the children connecting with nature. Being in the natural world and learning about nature, supports them in all areas of their development and is also helping them to become active citizens who are interested in and care for their environment.



## Communication

The natural world is an exciting place and really supports children's language development. There is so much rich vocabulary linked to being outside from the names of plants and animals to words that describe the weather. Having real experiences also helps children's language development, for example if you've experienced snow you're more likely to be able to talk about it confidently.

The natural world is interesting and intriguing, so provides children with lots of opportunities to ask questions and to talk about what they see and experience.

## Community

Being outside and engaging in nature, helps to build positive relationships. Being together having a shared experience such as sitting round the bonfire, or sharing in the excitement of seeing a wild animal, builds a sense of community and belonging.

Outside provides children with responsibility, for example carefully using real resources such as magnifying glasses or binoculars, or helping to sweep up leaves or plant bulbs. Young children enjoy these type of experiences which make them feel valued and empowered.

Children learn to care for living things outside. They develop a curiosity and understanding of the animals which live in their community and how to look after them.

Outdoor learning is good for children's wellbeing and also for adults too!



### Challenge

Being outside helps to build resilience and offers challenge. Children can embrace physical challenges outside such as learning how to climb a tree or push a wheelbarrow. They build resilience from being out in all weathers or having new experiences such as going to the woods.



### Creativity

Nature can be a great inspiration for being creative. We encourage children to look closely and notice the colours, shapes and patterns in the natural world. We want the children to see the awe and wonder in nature.

This week the children have been inspired to draw and paint birds based on the bird watching we have been doing. Outside the children can play imaginatively in the mud kitchen or explore mark making in frost. We also use lots of natural resources inside for example adding sticks and stones to the clay table. Natural resources are open ended so allow children to use them creatively in different ways.



### Connecting Learning

Children learn best when experiences are connected so their learning is linked together. We read stories and sing rhymes connected to the natural world. The children learn how to cook outside, for example making bread or soup over the bonfire. We might pick herbs in the garden and use them in our cooking. We bring lots of natural resources into the classroom to help the children connect their outdoor learning with inside.