



Outdoor Learning – Spring Term 2024

Open Spaces - Open Hearts - Open Minds.

As we reach the end of what has been an exciting spring term of outdoor learning, it is time to reflect on the benefits that being close to nature has had on our children. As part of our outdoor learning opportunities, children have been exploring Cultivating Futures through nature hunts, observing wildlife and investigating plants and insects in their habitats. They have been participating in fun and engaging team games, improving teamwork and communication skills while building those valuable lifelong skills.



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Children in the EYFS have been participating in weekly sessions with Mr Costello, They have been observing the birds that visit our wildlife area, making bird feeders and taking part in the RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch.



They have been getting close to our animals, learning how to care for them, describing and comparing their features. The children have particularly enjoyed getting close to our guinea pigs and rabbits. While observing the animals they have been learning about the different groups of animals and how they are different.

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The children have enjoyed learning about and getting close to our stick insects.



They have also been learning all about birds and the life cycle of a chicken.

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While exploring Cultivating Futures, the EYFS children conducted a sensory trail, looking for our animals, listening to the sounds of nature, smelling the aroma of herbs and feeling the texture of the bark of trees.



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The children have enjoyed being close to our pond and watching the changes throughout the seasons. They observed the frogspawn in our pond and have since been watching the tadpoles develop while learning about their life cycle.



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They have enjoyed learning how to stay safe next to water and how to pond dip safely from the bridge. They were amazed to discover many newts and some of the children were eager to hold them.



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The children have also been getting their hands dirty, sowing, growing and creating wildflower mini gardens.



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It has certainly been a busy Spring term of outdoor learning in EYFS. These outdoor learning lessons continue to enrich the EYFS curriculum, supporting children's understanding of the world, their physical development and spoken language.



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In Year 1, we have been exploring Cultivating Futures, learning how to use garden tools safely and preparing soil ready for planting strawberry plants and sowing a variety of seeds. They have also been learning about evergreen and deciduous plants during a nature walk.



Some children have also been making miniature gardens. They enjoyed being creative and using a variety of materials to help them create their ideal garden.

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The children have also enjoyed caring for our animals and learning the basic needs of pets. They enjoyed spending time with the rabbits, chickens and guinea pigs.



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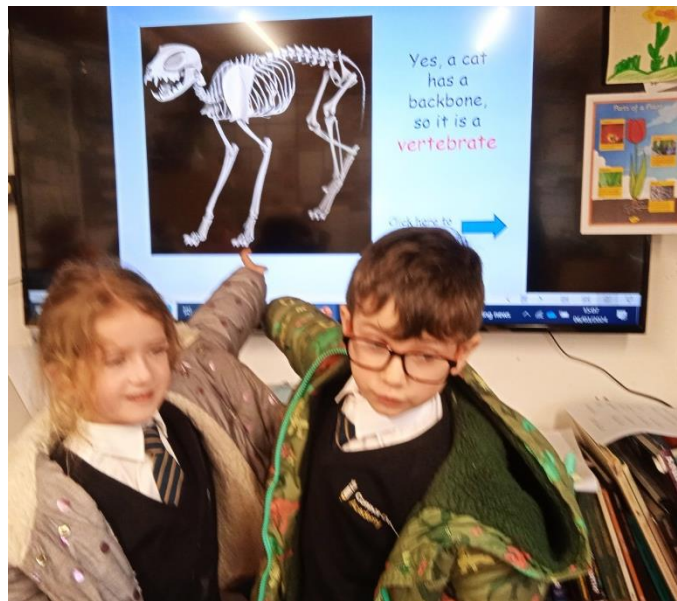
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All children in year one have been gaining a greater understanding about the animal kingdom, beginning by comparing vertebrates (animals with a backbone). They enjoyed comparing the skeletons of different animals using an interactive game, playing 'Guess Zoo' and touching a snake skin.



The children also participated in a min-beast hunt around our school grounds.



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Children have particularly enjoyed exploring our pond habitat, discovering the many creatures that live there and comparing them to other habitats around us. They began by learning how to pond dip safely. Among all the creatures they discovered, they were especially delighted to find so many newts and hold them carefully



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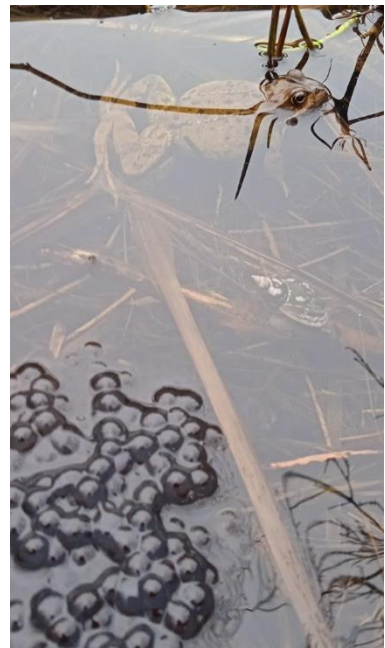


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More pictures from Year 1 outdoor learning this spring term.



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Year 2 children have had so much fun exploring, discovering and observing nature over the spring term. They have been getting close to our animals, learning about the needs of pets and the seven characteristics of living things. During January the children helped prepare the planters ready for sowing seeds. They particularly enjoyed collecting the bark and transporting this to the growing area.



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The children in Y2 have enjoyed sowing a variety of seeds and participating in a wacky bean challenge to see who how tall the bean could grow in four weeks.



Therapeutic gardening

The children have enjoyed gardening and watching the small seeds grow into mighty seedlings.

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The children have enjoyed playing team games, making shapes from sticks and finding out how their seeds had grown.



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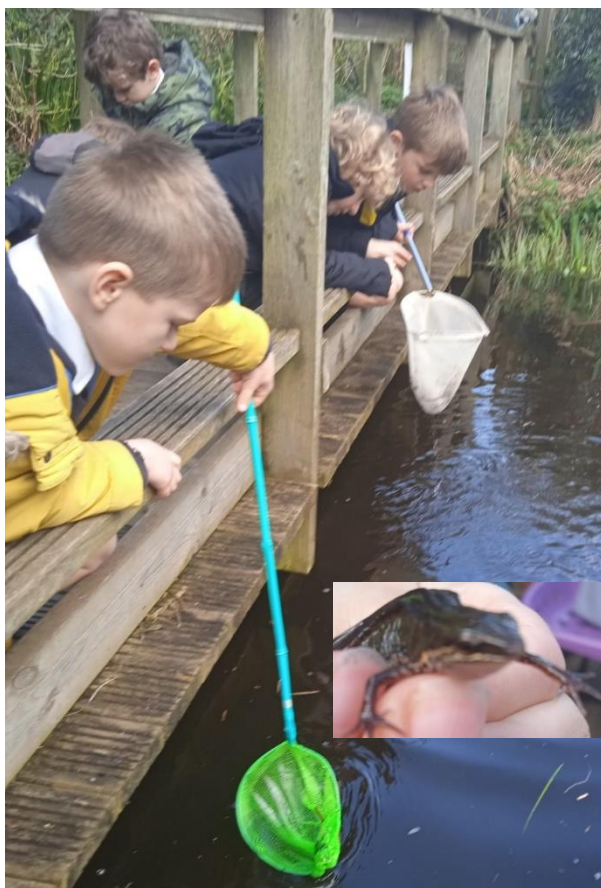
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They have particularly enjoyed learning about our pond habitat, which attracts an array of wildlife both vertebrates and invertebrates. Pond safety has been taught and they have taken part in pond dipping sessions, where they have discovered many creatures, which they have identified and observed closely.



“Let Nature be your teacher”

William Wordsworth

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The children enjoyed learning more about the birds that visited our bird cafe, making bird feeders and using binoculars to observe them closely.



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More pictures from the Y2 explorers this Spring term.



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Meanwhile in Year 3, children have been learning about the characteristics of birds, where they live and how they differ. They used binoculars to observe the birds around our school grounds, watched live bird feeding stations and listened to the common bird songs. They particularly enjoyed taking part in a bird fact finding mission around Cultivating Futures



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The children have gained a better understanding around directions, compass points and co-ordinates. They compared different maps, used a compass, learned how to use an orienteering map before taking part in an orienteering challenge around the school grounds.



The children particularly enjoyed using the orienteering map to locate the control points and hidden animals.

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The children have been learning about the importance of insects through mini beast hunts and discussions. They also observed our stick insects closely using a variety of magnifying lenses.



The children compared the features of animals within the animal kingdom. They also enjoyed caring for our guinea pigs, rabbits and chickens.

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Year 3 have also been learning about the importance of plants in our diets. They learned how to use garden tools safely, prepared our garden planters and sowed a wildflower garden. They enjoyed making their own origami seed packets.



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Children in Year 4, children have continued their topic about living things, their habitats and grouping animals in different ways. They have been comparing the features and life cycles of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and fish. The children have enjoyed taking part in the 'Big Schools' Birdwatch', observing the birds using binoculars and recording the results.



The children have enjoyed participating in animal fact finding missions and memory games to help them understand how we group animals in different ways.

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Year 4 children have been gaining a better understanding about maps, scales and directions. They compared different maps and located key points before working out the distance between two places. The children learned how to read an orienteering map and follow directions before embarking on a challenge around the school grounds.



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Children have also been learning more about the creatures that live in our pond. They observed and compared the many different creatures, including invertebrates and vertebrates. They really enjoyed discovering the many newts that inhabit the pond

at this time of the year. We were able to identify the species of newt and whether it was male or female.



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All year 4 children have enjoyed getting close to our rabbits, guinea pigs and chickens while learning about animal groups. They have gained so much knowledge and shown great care and compassion for them. This learning journey is part of the RSPCA's compassionate class programme.



"Being directly involved with animals does the soul good, it reminds you that humans are just another species on this planet. It makes you feel insignificant in a positive way." - Martin Clunes.

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Architects from Mei Loci visited year 4 to help them design a new thriving play park for Connor Downs. During the afternoon the children participated in a variety of design and creative activities. They particularly enjoyed creating their designs in a box and sharing these with each group. Each year group will also share their ideas and create an imaginative design. These will help the team deliver a new design that will benefit the community for years to come.



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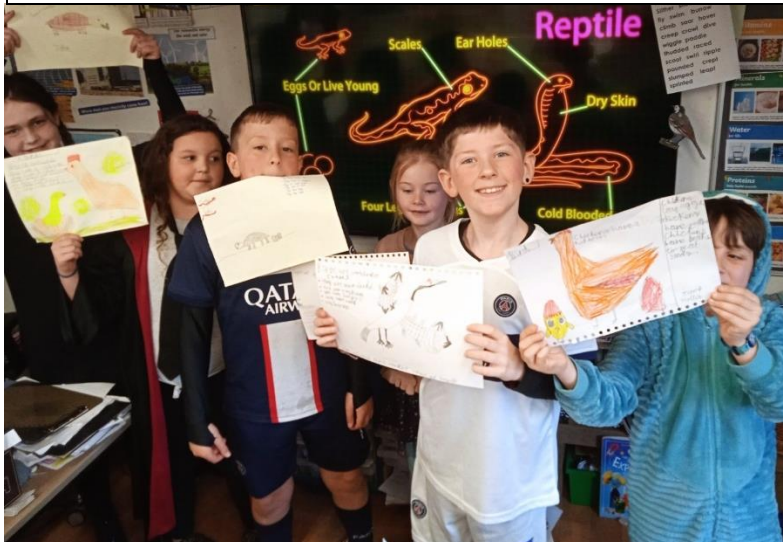
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More pictures from Year 4 this Spring term.



Year 4 have been helping prepare planters and have planted strawberry plants.



Year 4 have had a very busy Spring term, and are getting ready for a super summer term of outdoor learning. We are hoping the sun makes more of an appearance.

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In year 5 our children completed the weather topic, gaining an understanding of how our weather forms, how it is measured and the effects of it on our planet. They have recorded our weather during the week and compared to other cities in the UK. They have also learnt about the climate zones and the difference between weather and climate.



They have recorded our weather during the week and compared to other cities in the UK. They have also learnt about the climate zones and the difference between weather and climate.



Many of the children have been getting their hands dirty while preparing the grounds.

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In cultivating futures, we have been preparing our planters for the spring, raking out the stones and weeds, digging over the soil and adding compost, and bark. Year 5 have worked tremendously hard a part of the outdoor lessons, and gained much knowledge and confidence when working with garden tools.



The early morning garden cadets have worked extremely hard to enhance the design of the garden.

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They have been learning about the importance of insects and how pollination occurs. They all became scientists for the afternoon, dissecting a daffodil, piece by piece to help them understand the role of each part. They not only found this activity

enjoyable and relaxing, but they commented on how it helped them understand the pollination process while identifying each part of the flower.



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As part of their topic about plant and animal life cycles they have explored our pond area, observed wildlife and compared the life cycles of different insects including a dragonfly and a diving beetle. They carried out a survey of the creatures in the pond using nets, comparing their size while learning more about the predators of the pond. They particularly enjoyed identifying and observing the newts that they had discovered.



They also discovered caddisfly in their cases, leeches, pond skaters, water boatmen and ramshorn snails.

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More pictures of the year 5 children during their pond dipping sessions



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The year 5 children have been taking part in team games and orienteering. Following a knowledge refresh around map reading and orienteering they were challenged with discovering the 10 control points in order and naming the country and capital city from the flags.



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More pictures from Year 5 taking part in the gardening and animal care lessons.



The children have had a thoroughly enjoyable spring term and are looking forward to a fantastic summer term of outdoor learning.

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Year 6, our children have completed their topic about energy, how we use it, where it comes from and why it is important. They have learnt about the national grid and the difference between renewable and non-renewable energy. They have learned the importance of having sufficient renewable solutions in place for the future.



They have taken part in energy fact finding missions around our school grounds.



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During a rare sunny and calm afternoon, year 6 children participated in some relaxing outdoor back-to-back drawing. They created some wonderful sketches and a descriptive poem about the image.



Some children enjoyed creating their own miniature gardens.

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The children have shown a never give up attitude in the garden.



Using garden tool safely, and carefully sowing and growing a variety of seeds.

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Year 6 children have been looking after the environment through litter picks around our school grounds. They have also been creating important habitats for the diverse range of animals that live around us. Recently they began creating a mini beast hide and a hibernaculum, a home for the amphibians and reptiles. During a recent visit to Hayle memorial walk, they gained inspiration from a mini beast hotel that they found.



Checking out the local habitats in Hayle

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Year 6, group 1 visit to Hayle nature reserve and memorial walk.

A nature trail focusing on local and contrasting landscapes.



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We began the nature trail with a discussion about why and when the memorial walk was developed, and what it was previously used for. During the trail we stopped off at key points to help answer the quiz questions and used binoculars to observe the variety of wildlife including the many species of bird visit the reserve. The children used a compass to help them understand direction and why this location is ideal for the growth of unusual plant species.



The children enjoyed completing the nature trail and learning about the history of this area.



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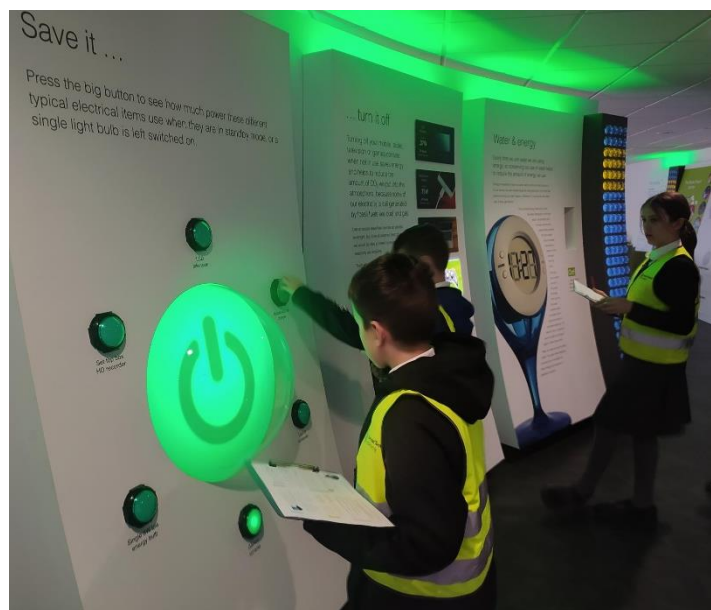
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The children travelled by coach to the Cornwall Energy Recovery Centre, where they discovered how electricity is produced from our bin waste. Following an introduction to the facility the children went on a behind-the-scenes tour to see the processes involved and see the facility in action. They particularly enjoyed visiting the control room and using the interactive displays which enabled them to investigate sustainability and energy. At the end of the visit they made a pledge and sent it to the virtual cloud.



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