

Head of School: Mrs J Eddy

<u>Outdoor Learning – Autumn Term 2022</u>

"Let nature be your teacher" – William Wordsworth

We have come to the end of what has been a brilliant autumn term of outdoor learning. Our children have been inspired by getting closer to nature. They have enjoyed exploring, observing and discovering more about their local environment, which in turn helps them understand the world we live in. We have seen the positive impact that Cultivating Futures and learning outdoors has on our children. We sincerely believe that nature is a super power that can energise us all.



All children have been learning outdoors through nature hunts, observing wildlife and investigating plants and insects in their habitats. The children have been participating in fun and engaging team games, improving teamwork and communication skills while building trust. They have all had the opportunity to help care for our animals in cultivating futures.





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During their weekly sessions with Mr Costello, all children in the EYFS have exploring Cultivating Futures and learning how to care for our animals. They have particularly enjoyed our mini beast and scavenger hunts. All the lessons begin with a discussion and warm up exercises which the children enjoy. They have been learning how to use garden tools safely while learning about the importance of plants. They have continued to grow with confidence, helping prepare our garden planters for sowing seeds and transplanting seedlings. These outdoor learning lessons enrich the EYFS curriculum, supporting children's understanding of the world, their physical development and spoken language.



The children enjoyed finding out about different mini beasts, where they lived and why. They observed these closely using a variety of magnifying equipment.

The Children have particularly enjoyed getting close to our rabbits and guinea pigs. They have used sentences to describe the features of the rabbits.









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The children have been learning about how to pond dip safely from our bridge. They thoroughly enjoyed observing and discovering some creatures that live in the pond.



The children have enjoyed taking part in team games which help them with balance and coordination. They have acted out how different animals move and defend themselves.



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All EYFS children have been learning lifelong gardening skills.











They have also enjoyed getting close to our African Pygmy hedgehog.









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In Year 1, children have been exploring Cultivating Futures, looking for the signs of autumn, week by week observing the changing weather, learning about the world we live in and our local environment. They have been getting close to nature by discovering and identifying mini beasts in various habitats. They used magnifying



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glasses and lenses to observe these creatures and compared the size of worms that they discovered to find out the shortest and longest. They have participated in animal scavenger hunts, discussing food chains, carnivores, omnivores and herbivores. Some children have particularly enjoyed getting close to our stick insects, learning more about their features and camouflage while comparing them to mini-beasts. other They have also been learning about the variety of birds that live around US, identifying them by sight, and recording what they had seen on a tally chart. listened to their They different voice calls to find out if they could recognise their sounds when venturing outside.

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Year 1 children have been in the fresh air, observing, discovering the incredible biodiversity in our pond and learning about our connections with nature. They were excited to visit our pond dipping bridge where they learnt about pond safety before participating in a pond dipping session where they discovered an array of creatures.

They were in awe and wonder at the sight of newts, which they held and observed closely before placing back into the pond.



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Children have also been learning about the basic needs of animals while getting close to our animals, including the rabbits, guinea pigs, stick insects and the African pygmy hedgehog. They used whiteboards to draw the pictures and describe their features in three sentences. They have enjoyed connecting with our animals and with each other during these valuable outdoor sessions.



The children have also enjoyed learning beneficial gardening skills preparing the ground, harvesting vegetables and sowing a selection of seeds. With Miss Pedley they have also been leaning about road safety through interactive sessions on the

playground. They were taught the importance of using the green cross code and how to stay safe when close to or crossing the road.





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Year 2 children have had an amazing time exploring, discovering and observing nature over the autumn term. They started the autumn term learning about the importance of plants. Children have learned how to use garden tools safely when taking part in gardening activities and gained significant knowledge about sowing and growing. They have been getting their hands dirty while harvesting vegetables, sowing seeds and learning about the parts of a plant that we eat.





Our tomato plants were a huge success this year and we were still harvesting these into early October. While learning about the importance of plants, children have also been introduced to food chains, and the role of plants as a producer. They have also been learning about herbivores, carnivores and omnivores.

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Year 2 children have also been getting close to our animals, comparing their different features while learning how to care for them. They have been comparing different groups of animals including mammals, reptiles, birds and amphibians and learning about their natural habitats.





Children have been observing our animals and describing their features in a sentence. Our African pygmy hedgehog has been really popular, with all children having the opportunity to hold him while learning more these fascinating about mammals. They handled and observed our stick insects closely, which gave them inspiration to learn about the importance of insects. They particularly enjoyed the autumn scavenger hunts, which included sorting animals into their correct groups.







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Year 2 enjoying the outdoors -- team games, pond dipping, weather watching.



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In Year 3, the beginning of the autumn term saw our children harvesting the fruit and vegetables that had been growing during the summer, including radishes, spring



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onions, beetroot, cabbage and tomatoes. They learned how to use garden tools safely, how to prepare the soil ready for sowing seeds and the functions of the different parts of plants.

They created a wildflower garden, harvested seeds and made their own seed packets.



The children were amazed at the variety of tomatoes that we had grown over the summer. These are watered using our rain irrigation system, which is transported through pipes from a tank near the outdoor classroom.





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Year 3 have particularly enjoyed discovering nature, participating in team games, and the fact-finding missions around Cultivating Futures. They have gained knowledge about directions, grid references and coordinates through cone orienteering, modelling the use of a compass and using a map of Cultivating Futures to locate key features



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Children have been matching the autumn leaves to the trees in Cultivating Futures.



While pond dipping the children discovered many creatures, which they identified and observed closely using magnifying glasses. We observed the change in the seasons, recording the temperature, rainfall and wind speed. They also presented their own weather forecast, while learning about where we live in the United Kingdom.





The impact litter has on our environment and wildlife has also been a topic of conversation. They have shown care with litter picks and discussing what can be done to improve this and why it matters.

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Meanwhile in Year 4, children have been learning about living things, their habitats and gaining a deeper understanding about the classification of animals. They have also been learning how to care for animals through hands on activities with our animals. They have taken part in the RSPCA's 'Compassionate Class' that teaches children about empathy. At the beginning of autumn, they discovered the diverse range of creatures that live in our pond. They particularly enjoyed participating in team games, scavenger hunts and solving riddles around Cultivating Futures.





They have been grouping animals in dfferent ways, comparing vertebrates and invertebrates, observing our animals and the shedded skin of a snake. Our autumn mini beast hunt was enjoyed by all. They identified lots of soil invertebrates, which they observed closely.

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Our pond habitat has become a haven for wildlife and our children thoroughly enjoy exploring the pond, observing and identifying the creatures they find. This helps them understand the differences between animal groups and how the creatures become better at living in a hostile environment. The children particularly enjoyed learning



about the predators of the pond and the food chains.

They also learned about how to stay safe on bonfore night and how animals can be affected. They also participated in a number of team games.















While learning about adaptation they were challenged to sketch a new species, describing why it had adapted, how it moved, lived, and defended itself before creating it from natural materials.

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Year 5 children have been learning about the weather and climate, not only in the United Kingdom, but around the world. They have learned through interactive games, weather forecasts, live data and maps. The children have been observing our weather instruments and recording data collected from the thermometer, barometer, anemometer and rain gauge. They have also learned about the importance of the water cycle, the formation of the wind and why the sky is blue.





All our children have enjoyed participating in team games in Cultivating Futures.

Our Year 5 animal cadets have been caring for our animals, including learning how to identify early signs of illness.

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"Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better" - Albert Einstein

Year 5 outdoor learning group had an amazing time exploring the dunes of Upton Towans. They climbed up to a high point and used binoculars to observe the surrounding area, a compass and a map to understand location and directions. They continued their journey, running into a dune blow out where they learnt about the formation of the dunes. They relaxed in the marram grass, listened to the sounds of nature before learning about the diverse wildlife that inhabits this habitat. Finally, they observed nature closely using lenses and magnifying equipment.



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The dunes visit has helped children learn more about our local environment.



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I am extremely proud of the year 5 gardening team with their never give up attitude to work, come rain or shine. They cleaned out the poly tunnel of all the tomato and cucumber plants, created a wildflower haven, planted daffodils and moved lots of bark around. Well done to the whole team, which rotates on a daily basis.



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Year 5 children have also been discovering invertebrates that live around us in different habitats. They have explored our pond area, and identified a variety of creatures using pond ID guides. They particularly enjoyed identifying and observing the newts that they had discovered.





Everyone used an orienteering map of Cultivating Futures to navigate around the control points in order, staple the card and collect the letters. These letters had to be sorted to find the mystery animal. Some children also compared the scales of two maps, measured the distance between different landmarks and converted from km miles.



The year 5 animal cadet have also done a tremendous job, caring for our rabbits on a daily basis. They have learned how to carry out health checks on our animals.

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Year 6 children have had a busy autumn term, learning about energy, climate change and our local environment. They have also participated in fact finding missions around Cultivating Futures, map reading and orienteering and gardening, With Mrs Pedley they have brushed up on their animal care and started their 'Mini Medics' first aid course.



They explored the unique and scientifically important habitat of Godrevy Warren. They learned about the history of the area, the formation of the dunes and the geology of the surrounding area. The area itself is not open to the public and is a site of specific scientific interest being home to around Cornwall's 25% of plant species. They walked around the warren observing habitats and wildlife, and also learned how to carry and use tools They particularly safely. enjoyed digging up the shrubs and preparing the fire, while sheltering from the sudden deluge of rain. This did not dampen their spirits and at the end of the afternoon they were rewarded with a roaring fire, which later became the oven for our baked potatoes. They all had a thoroughly enjoyable experience.





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They used a variety of tools to cut back the shrubs and build a fire.



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Year 6 children have also participated in orienteering challenges, map work and fact finding missions. They have been learning out about the importance of trees while finding out which trees we have around Cultivating Futures and working out the oldest.



The pond has been explored by many of the children during our warm autumn months. They discovered a variety of creatures, which they identified using the pond invertebrate guide.





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With Mrs Pedley, some of our year 6 children have had an introduction to first aid as part of their 'Mini Medics' course, looking at the importance of providing important first aid at the scene. They have learned how to react in an emergency situation and place the patient in the correct recovery position. They have also been learning how to provide CPR if necessary. This is an important life skill and during 2023 all children will have the opportunity to enhance their skills, which will be assessed by a trained paramedic.



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It has without doubt been a fun packed autumn term of outdoor learning. We are looking forward to an amazing summer term of outdoor learning where we will continue to immerse ourselves in nature. We are all getting ready!



Year 6 children participating in the team tyre relay

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