



A message from Miss Arnold, our Outdoor Learning Lead

Outdoor Learning and the environment is something that I am really passionate about. As an Outdoor Specialist and Beach/Coastal teacher it is really important that we can utilise the surrounding space that we have around us to its full teaching potential. Outdoor Learning is a great for visual learning, team work and communication skills and it is a pleasure to see the children thrive.

Design and Purpose

At Darlinghurst we have all different learners and inquisitive children. Outdoor Learning focus is on the Edison curriculum whilst using Learning and Life skills as a platform. Every child is given the opportunity to experience lessons with varied practical activities. We want our children to experience awe and wonder and what better way than through outdoor learning. As part of this, children can tap into their personal, social, emotional and spiritual well-being. Outdoor Learning contributes to children making connections with each other and nature, helping support their well-being

In Outdoor Learning we support every child and challenge to enable children to make progress. Children have the opportunity to learn new skills and share their experiences, both educational and creative. Outdoor Learning builds on children's team work skills, confidence in communication and groups skills. English, Maths, Science and Geography are taught outside as an extension to the classroom through the Connected Curriculum. Children are able to discover, explore and connect through the half termly topics we follow indoors and outdoors.

Difference

Our children are successful learners and have a fantastic environment at Darlinghurst to thrive in. They develop their knowledge through the lessons which are provided with a focus on their Learning and Life skills. It is a continuing process to provide the children with different experiences so the child can build on changes that may take place in the future. Outdoor Learning is an engaging, effective form of learning, whether the emphasis is personal, social or environmental. Outdoor learning provides first-hand experience of the natural world.

Supportive learning with Learning through Landscapes has enabled fresh ideas for implementing into the Learning and Life skills framework and connective curriculum for Learning outside the classroom.

'Achieving Excellence Together'

Outdoor Learning Reflections

Autumn 2022

This term, for our Learning and Life Skills, we have been focusing on Learning Together and It's up to me. Outside the classroom this academic year, we will be working on five skill groups. Orienteering/map reading, field studies, climate change, nature/biology and outdoor cooking. Our focus for Outdoor Learning is to try and use local learning spaces such as Chalkwell Park, the Beach and Belfair's wood to empower our learning and to be around nature.

I had the pleasure of teaching Year 4 at Belfair's wood this Autumn. We looked at the senses and how we could use the woods to explore them. The children had a fantastic experience and enjoyed making animal habitats, art/music in the woods and the blindfold challenge I set them. More trips to follow in the New Year and special memories to be made.

Year 6

Environmental awareness – How can we help around school with single use plastics?

Environmental litter pick

Children designed their own solar systems looking at terrain/atmosphere

Created their own solar systems using chalk/powder paint on the playground

Built Anderson shelters/upcycled for Hedgehog habitats

Army Survival skills – Building fires using flint and steel



Year 5- Environmental awareness- Litter pick around school

Site survey – How can we make our school a safer place?

Pond designs – Restoration project 2023

Re-fresh on map reading skills – What is a Key on a map?

Children created their own keys from a 2d picture of Darlington school

Created their own Motte and Bailey castles using wood and stone



Year 4 – Environmental awareness/Litter pick. How much plastic and paper is litter at school?

Trip to Belfair's woods – Focus on senses

Outdoor games – What would it feel like to be blind and deaf?

Stomp – Children created their own piece of music using materials provided
Natural and man-made instruments – Focus tempo and vibrations

Year 3 – Environmental awareness – How can we make Darlington a safer place for wildlife?

Autumn watch – Outdoor art using natural materials – Colour blending

What are the four points on a compass – What can we use a compass for?

What are co-ordinates and why are they important for map reading?

Art – Creating paint using natural materials outside. Cave painting

Egyptian archaeological dig – Using maps to find artefacts around school



Year 2 - Materials - What is our school made from?

Autumn Watch – Photosynthesis

How does Autumn affect our trees and animals

Maps - Landmarks and Key

Great Fire of London – Experiment in Hagrid's hut

What is a fire triangle? How can we be safe around fire?

Year 1 - How do we keep safe outside?

Creating outdoor games using natural materials

Autumn watch – Why do leaves change colour in Autumn?

What is a map and who would use one?

Compass – North and South

What does a bird's eye view mean on a map?

United Kingdom – England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Island



EYFS - Safe and Unsafe places around school
Autumn watch – Trees and animals in Autumn
Autumn leaves – Colour identification
Cooking in the mud kitchen using natural materials – Stick Spaghetti and

Grassy soup

Stickman story - Art using sticks from the Well-being garden

Maps – What is a map and who would use one?



Spring 2022

In Outdoor Learning this term we have been focusing on Becoming Better Learners and Knowing Me Knowing You. We have shared some great team work and communication activities combined with independent problem solving tasks. We have in Outdoor learning as a whole school contributed towards The Great British Bird watch, Eco week and Science week.

Year 6 – Environmental Awareness and litter pick. How rubbish can impact the school and animal habitats. Discussed for Eco week what is a single use plastic?
We researched Charles Darwin and discussed evolution. Children created their own Insect drawings factoring in climate change, environment and what they would look like in 500 years.
We discussed why it important to support our Birds in Spring. We made Bird feeders using pine cones and apples and hung them around school
Children became nature detectives and explored the Darlington grounds looking for Vertebrates and Invertebrates.

Year 5 - We researched Fairgrounds and explored Gravity, Friction speed and forces. Children made Roller coasters using marbles pipes and materials around school.
Eco schools – We discussed de-composition of food and items and how long they take to decompose.
Children made kites and discussed symmetry and aerodynamics and had the chance to fly them,
Researched Solar, Hydropower, wind turbines and natural forces.

Year 4 - Map identification and how to use an atlas. Map identification with a focus around North and South America.
We made Mayan temples using natural materials in the wellbeing garden.
Geo- caching around school using maps for re-enforced learning linked to North America
We looked at the senses and the children used team work and communication to complete a Blind fold challenge – Linking in with the topic What happens inside of Us?
Researched the digestive system and measured out the large and small intestines using measuring tape and rope
Children made a hand skeleton using sticks and stones in the well-being garden and we Discussed the different parts of the hand

Year 3 - Researched food chains and looked at predators and prey
Looked at a life cycle of a frog and looked in the pond to see if we could find any Frogs
We explored “Why are Bugs important?”
Children discovered Insects, Arachnids, Snails and Earthworms on a Bug hunt.
They created their own 3D Bugs using natural materials in the well-being Garden
We completed a Spring Insect hunt and recorded on spotter sheets what our findings were
Researched Bees and went on a challenge to spot Bumble Bees and Honey Bees

Year 2 - We looked at materials with a focus on flexible and waterproof
 The children investigated the school and completed a pie chart of what materials Darlington school and grounds is built with
 We discussed Charles McIntosh and completed our own waterproof experiments around school
 With a focus on wood, metal and plastic.
 Linking in with Chinese New Year we made kites and flew them outside in the wind
 Children made their own Bird nests using natural materials in the well-being garden

Year 1 - We looked at materials around school with a focus on transparent and opaque.
 Children discussed why different materials are used for different things
 Investigated the different parts of flower with team building games followed by a dissection of a Flower
 Completed a grounds survey of what plants and animals need why linking in in with our topic
 Why is water precious?
 Nature walk around school – What can we find in the school grounds that we can identify with
 The season Spring



Summer 2022

We have focused on Think, Think, Think and Speaking and listening this term The children have continued to thrive in the Outdoor Learning spaces around the school and have especially enjoyed the wild flower garden and well- being area. Summer term has been a focus on Geography and map reading skills and all children have learned about maps/orienteering. Some year groups I have had the pleasure of extending their map reading skills to Chalkwell Park. I have also been able to practice my Coastal Practioner knowledge at Chalkwell beach. We have embraced Outdoor Classroom day and had the opportunity to complete a challenge for 30 Days Wild in connection with the WWF. Outdoor Learning and Art this term were able to collaborate in a fantastic whole school project called "Art makes children Powerful". Using natural materials and inspiration from nature the children have created sculptures to be housed in the well-being garden. We have connected Learning outside to Mental Health awareness and the Silver Jubilee celebrations.

Year 6 – Categorising animals – What are Invertebrates and Vertebrates?
 What animals in our school have an exoskeleton?
 Slugs and snails. Can a Snails navigate?
 What are the differences between Slugs and Snails?
 Map reading and map skills
 How do we read a map using a 4/6 Grid reference and Compass
 Orienteering challenge around school using 4 grid map and co-ordinates

Year 5 - Children researched the five different animal groups – Insects, Mammals, Birds, Reptiles and Amphibians.
 We looked at predators, producers and consumers and food chains.
 Children looked at Ecosystems and organisms and how they depend on each other

Map reading and map skills
How do we read a map using a 4/6 Grid reference and Compass
Metal and Art project "Art makes Children Powerful"

Year 4 - Categorising animals/plants – Focus on Insects and Exoskeletons
Producers, plants and Algae
Photosynthesis and plants and how the sun and shade affect growth
Metal and Art project "Art makes Children Powerful"
Orienteering at Chalkwell Park – Map reading and co-ordinate skills

Year 3 – Celebrated Earth day – Litter pick and environment awareness
Reproduction in flowers – How do we get seed/flowers?
Hedgehog awareness and Habitats
Mental Health Awareness week
Coastal Practitioner sessions at Chalkwell Beach – Geography and Coast
map reading and map skills
How do we read a map using a 4/6 Grid reference and Compass
Metal and Art project "Art makes Children Powerful"

Year 2 - Habitats and how the weather affects different animals?
What animals live in shady, dark and wet environments
Drawing/designing our own Insects and creating them using
natural materials in the well-being garden
Introductory to maps and what we might find on a map
What is a four grid reference map
Metal and Art project "Art makes Children Powerful"

Year 1 - Spring Watch extension – What differences around school can we see from Spring to Summer
How have the trees and plants changed from Spring – Summer/ Photosynthesis
What changes happen to the animals Spring – Summer
Hibernation - Bees (Queen Bee and reproduction)
Introductory to an Atlas and Maps
What symbols/pictures might we find on a map
Metal and Art project "Art makes Children Powerful"



Outdoor Learning Gallery

