



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.

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 giving the opportunity to experience lessons with varied practical activities.

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.

'Achieving Excellence Together'

Outdoor Learning Reflections

Autumn 2021

This term the children have been set lots of different activities/challenges around their Learning and Life skills. We have focused on Learning together, It's up to me, working in groups and communication.

Year 6 – Environmental Awareness and litter pick. How rubbish can impact the school and the animal habitats.

Children designed their own Solar system on the playground using Chalk and Powder paint

Researched and built our own Anderson shelters - WW2

Investigation into leaves and trees in Autumn – What part does photosynthesis play?

Year 5 – How can we make Darlinghurst school Eco friendly. Litter pick with a focus on single use plastics

Black History month – Focus on Hip Hop/Graffiti. Children designed their own Graffiti design on the playground using chalks.

Children designed their own Ant worlds using natural materials in the Well Being garden

Learned a new skill – Fire sticking/building in the Outdoor Learning area

Year 4 - Children had lessons around the senses.

Rope Blindfold challenge – Children had to follow an obstacle course blindfolded

Vibrations/Sound – Children had to compose a piece of music with inspiration from the

Group Stomp. Using materials around school, Bin lids, sticks, watering cans, brooms and plant pots.

Year 3 - What is a magnet and what is it used for?

How do we use a compass to help us map read – Where are North and South on a compass

Magnetic experiments – What is magnetic in the playground

History of Mayan Temples – Children created Mayan Temples using natural materials in the Wellbeing garden.

Year 2 - Materials and what are their functions – Transparent and waterproof
Outside survey of what materials the school is made of – Wood, Brick glass and Plastic
Investigation of Leaves and their functions
Self-portraits using the leaves around school
Great fire of London – What is a fire triangle?

Children made Tudor houses and we placed them on the fire in Hagrid's Hut to see How quickly they caught on fire.

Year 1 – We talked about animals that hibernate and why
What happens to the leaves in Autumn – Photosynthesis
Leaf/natural material art with inspiration from Andy Goldsworthy
Introduction to map reading and what maps are used for
How do we use a compass and what are the main focus points?

Spring

In the Spring with the Key worker children we planned lessons outside covering the Edison curriculum and Science based projects. We completed a traffic survey of cars that passed us around Darlington. We built and burned our Great Fire of London houses on the Fire in Hagrid's Hut. We made our own Ice sculptures using natural resources and hung them by the pond and made lots of Snowmen with the fantastic snow we were greatly provided with. Animal track identification from the clues the animals left in the snow and making Birdfeeders to help the Birds followed by The Big Bird Watch which the children really enjoyed.

Summer

In the Summer term, we continued with the catch up Science in accordance with the recovery plan and the children were treated to several different lessons and activities.

Year 1 – We investigated Spiders and how water collects on their webs. We looked at waterproofing and evaluated experiments using wellington boots. Children had the chance to study Ants and Worms and look at their habitats.

Year 2 – Categorising animals and the five main species groups. We visited different areas of the school looking at Birds, Amphibians, Insects, mammals and Reptiles.

Year 3 – Why are Bugs important? We looked at Bees and the environment. We talked about why Worms are important and perfected our own worm dance

Year 4 – What happens inside us – We set up our own blindfold trail around the school. The children composed their own piece of music using natural resources around school

Year 5 and 6 – We supported Mental Awareness week through nature and created some Andy Goldsworthy inspired Art outside. We raised awareness of World Oceans week and National Bee Day. The children participated in Wear It Wild month through June with Nature inspired ideas sponsored by the World Wild Life fund. Finally finishing with the Big clean up

