



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 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 – Children designed their own Solar system on the playground using chalk and powder paint. We researched and built our own Anderson shelters linked to their topic on WW2. We carried out an investigation into leaves and trees in Autumn: What part does photosynthesis play?

Year 5 – We began with a lesson on, 'How can we make Darlinghurst school eco-friendly?' We carried out a litter pick with a focus on single use plastics. For Black History month, we focused on Hip Hop and 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. They also learned a new skill: Fire striking/building in the Outdoor Learning area.

Year 4 - Children had lessons around the senses such as the 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 such as bin lids, sticks, watering cans, brooms and plant pots.

Year 3 - We looked at how we use a compass to help us map read. The children also carried out magnetic experiments to find what is magnetic in the playground. The children learnt about the History of Mayan Temples and created Mayan Temples using natural materials in the Wellbeing garden.

Year 2 - Children conducted an outside survey of what materials the school is made of – wood, brick glass and plastic. They carried out an investigation of leaves and their functions. They created self-portraits using the leaves around school For their topic on the Great fire of London, the children learnt about fire triangles. They 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. We looked at what happens to the leaves in Autumn and photosynthesis. The children created leaf/natural material art with inspiration from Andy Goldsworthy. In addition, we had an introduction to map reading and what maps are used for. The children learnt how we use a compass and what are the main focus points.

EYFS - Our main focus was on Seasons and what happens in Autumn. We went on a walkabout around school and discovered safe and unsafe places around school. We had discussions around hibernation and what it means. Children created Hedgehog pictures using different leaves from different trees. They also created chalk poppies on the playground.

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 through our Outdoor learninlessons contributed towards The Great British Bird watch, Eco week and Science week.

Year 6 – Focus on environmental awareness and litter pick. How rubbish can impact the school and animal habitats. We discussed this as part of 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. For Eco week, 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. We researched solar power, hydropower, wind turbines and natural forces.

Year 4 - We focused on map identification and how to use an atlas with a focus around North and South America. We made Mayan temples using natural materials in the wellbeing garden. We also participated in 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?' The children 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 - Children researched food chains and looked at predators and prey. We looked at a life cycle of a frog and looked in the pond to see if we could find any frogs. 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. We 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 there were and what Darlinghurst 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. We investigated the different parts of flower with team building games followed by a dissection of a flower. The children completed a grounds survey of what plants and animals need why linking in in with our topic 'Why is water precious?' The children also went on a nature walk around school with the focus on what can we find in the school grounds that we can identify with the season Spring.

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 School Clean Up .

Outdoor Learning Gallery

