

Outdoor Provision in the Early Years

Outside the entrances to our Early Years, you will see row upon row of colourful wellies whilst just inside our cloakroom you'll find distinctive red waterproof jackets and over trousers. We dress for all weathers and aim to go outdoors every single day at least once. Being outdoors every day means that together, we experience every one of the four seasons. We witness our natural world changing over time.



Every day we have mini adventures. We learn to 'read the sky' by looking at the different types of clouds and the weather they bring.

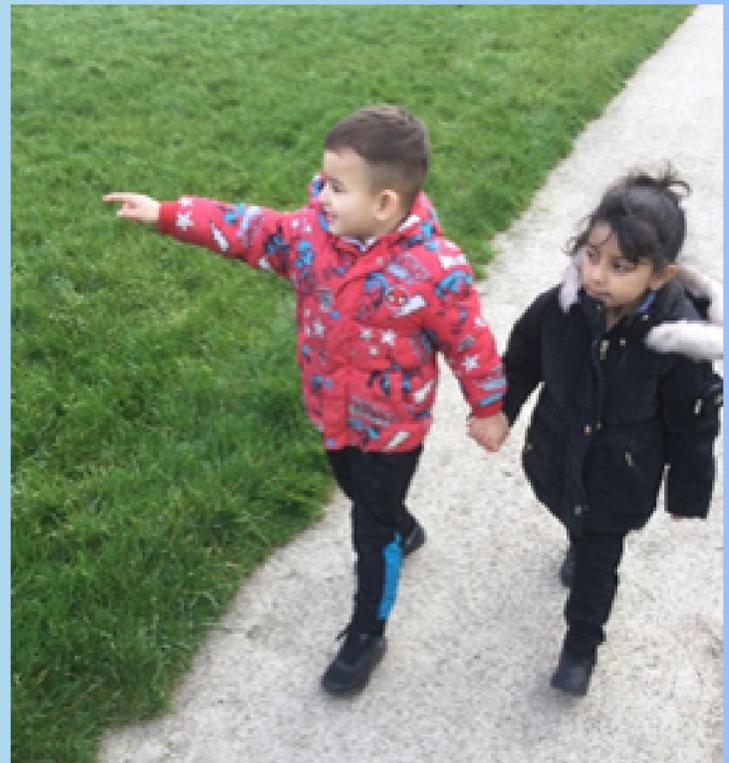
We learn to identify different birds and their calls. We look after the birds who stay here in winter too and look out for signs of nesting in the spring time



Natural resources offer endless learning opportunities. We bring the outdoors inside too. Our Nursery classroom places an emphasis on natural colours and materials with wood, plants, grass, flowers, stones, soil, sand and sticks for children to explore.



Playing outdoors allows for the development of more advanced motor skills than would be possible indoors including agility, balance and coordination. Children who spend time playing outdoors are more likely to move in ways that challenge their muscles, bones and physical endurance. Developing gross and fine motor skills at a young age sets a child up for success. Improving self-confidence, hand-eye coordination and balance makes children aware of their own capabilities.



Recognising and naming the trees, flowers, birds and woodland animals increases our children's vocabulary and develops speaking and listening skills too.

Daily walks give the children a chance to talk to different partners each day and to look after each other.

In Reception Classes the children continue to enjoy opportunities to learn outdoors as they build on the knowledge acquired in Nursery and further explore their local environment. Regular sessions are timetabled to spend extended periods of time in Dingley Dell – our woodland area situated in the school grounds.



Morton Beck is the stream that runs through our woodland area affording numerous play and learning opportunities – paddling, stone skipping, dam building, boat sailing and bridge building to name but a few.

The woodland provides it's own music whether this is the birdsong, the wind whistling through the trees or the ever changing sounds of the moving water. The children can also make their own music – trampling the dry fallen leaves in autumn, using sticks to beat rhythms on logs or branches or tapping stones together.

Directly outside our Early Years classrooms you'll find provision areas set up for the children to discover such as the mud kitchen and water pipe play. There's also a stage area, bikes and large-scale construction to explore.

Lots of plants are grown so that the children can look after them and watch developments over time.

