Outdoor Learning

Learning Outside the Classroom

Why Outdoors?

Evidence shows that giving children the opportunity to discover, learn about and experience the natural world is hugely important. It can impact:

- Engagement in learning and academic achievement
- Better motor skills and increased levels of physical activity
- Improved mental health and wellbeing
- Improvement in behaviour and attendance rates
- Fostering pride, belonging and involvement

At Larkholme

OAL (Outdoor Adventurous Learning) is a unique method of Outdoor Education that allows children to develop confidence, independence, self-esteem, as well as respect, responsibility, resilience, which are our 3 school values. It also increases awareness and knowledge of the natural environment. This fully supports our School Ethos: "To ensure that children become confident, life-long learners with high aspirations and a determination to succeed in all they do. In addition, we want to support children to develop as responsible citizens who are keen to make a positive contribution to their wider community."

Enhancement of Children's Learning

Outdoor learning should be intertwined with the classroom delivery of the curriculum. Our OAL curriculum enhances children's learning within the National Curriculum as well as develops skills outside of the main curriculum, including: Respect, Responsibility and Resilience.

The Journey so Far...

We have been developing our school grounds in order to facilitate more opportunities for learning outdoors and we have created our own bespoke curriculum. The children have been actively involved in creating and developing the outdoor spaces.

The 10 key outcomes of high quality outdoor education

1. Enjoyment: enjoy participating and reflecting in outdoor activities and adopt a positive attitude to challenge and adventure

2. Confidence and character: enhancing their overall well-being by gaining personal confidence and developing character and resilience through taking on challenges and achieving success

3. Health and wellbeing: developing their self-awareness and social skills, and their appreciation of the contributions and achievements of themselves and of others

4. Social and emotional awareness: are becoming alive to the natural local and global environment and understand the importance of conservation and sustainable development

5. Environmental awareness: acquiring and developing a range of skills in outdoor activities, fieldwork, exploration, journeys and expedition

6. Activity skills: demonstrating increased initiative and innovation, enthusiasm, curiosity, self-reliance, responsibility, perseverance, tenacity and commitment

7. Personal qualities: developing and extending their key skills of communication, problem-solving, creativity, critical thinking, leadership and co-operation

8. Skills for life: learning to appreciate the benefits of physical activity and the lifelong value of participation in healthy leisure activities and reflection

9. Increased motivation and appetite for learning: displaying an increased motivation and appetite for self-directed learning that is contributing to raised levels of attainment in other aspects of their development, as well as becoming concerned, responsible and fulfilled citizens

10. Broadened horizons: broadening their horizons and becoming open to a wider range of employment opportunities and life chances

Making Curriculum Links

We have developed our outdoor learning curriculum to offer our pupils a wider range of experiences as well as 'dove tailing' with the National Curriculum. We have created opportunities for pupils to apply their 'sticky' knowledge and to support them with pre learning.

Autumn 1

Reception	Routines and structure I can follow instructions I can put on my own waterproofs	Curriculum Enhancement Links Reading Speaking and Listening Language/Vocabulary development	Enrichment Links
Year 1 + 2	Local Knowledge and Explore I can follow instructions when learning outside. I can use a map. I can follow a story in our Outdoor Area. I can create my own messy maps.	**Maths** **English** Geography – map skills (pre learning) PSHE – Teamwork, resilience Reading Comprehension PE - OAA	Visit from Commando Dave
Year 3 + 4	Local Knowledge and Explore I can co-operate and communicate clearly when working in a team. I can set and orientate a map. I can follow instructions. I can describe the benefits of being outside. I can set my own instructions for another group to follow.	**Maths** **English** Geography – map skills (pre learning) PSHE - Teamwork Speaking and Listening Computing- algorithms PE - OAA	Visit from Commando Dave
Year 5 + 6	Local Knowledge and Explore I can co-operate and communicate clearly when working in a team. I can set and orientate a map. I can follow instructions to solve a problem. I can describe the benefits of being outside. I can set my own instructions for another group to follow. I can read a map co-ordinate. I can follow map co-ordinates.	**Maths** **English** Geography – Map work (pre learning) PSHE – Teamwork, resilience Speaking and Listening Computing- algorithms Art – collecting and drawing natural forms (sticky) PE - OAA	Visit from Commando Dave

Maths – Y5 & 6

- Measurements & estimates, calculating area.
- Solving practical problems.
- Apply knowledge of fractions
- Conversion of measurement
- Perimeter
- Volume
- Angles
- Properties of shape
- Statistics

English

English KS1 & 2

Opportunities to develop:

Reading easily, fluenence and with good understanding

Develop the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information

Acquire a wide vocabulary,

An understanding of grammar and knowledge of linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language

Write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences

Use discussion in order to learn; they should be able to elaborate and explain clearly their understanding and ideas are competent in the arts of speaking and listening, making formal presentations, demonstrating to others and participating in debate

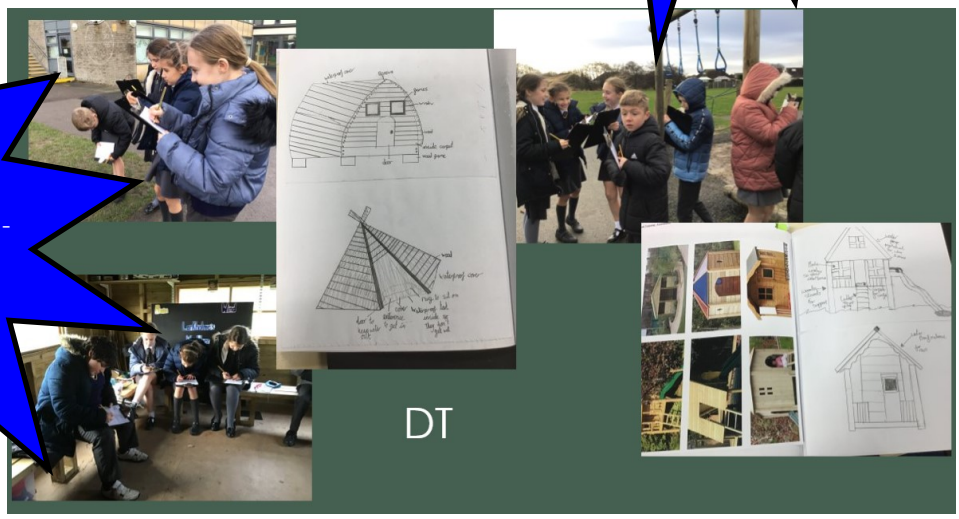
First aid and learning about being safe in our environment.

English

Maths

We have been sharing our practice with the Preston Alliance teaching students, to help them to develop skills in teaching outdoor learning.

Staff had so much relevant knowledge and knew what they were talking about!

I have learnt about the importance of outdoor learning and how to incorporate other areas of the curriculum. I would really recommend this for trainees and qualified teachers!

Today has been extremely beneficial. I have learned new skills and gained in confidence. The opportunity to see exemplar planning was particularly helpful.