

Our Polytunnel has arrived.

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With our building project just a month away from starting we needed to make sure that our new polytunnel was erected and ready for us to use. Mickie (Grounds team) is very busy currently building the new raised beds which will run along both sides of our gigantic tunnel. There is so much room we will all be able to spend more time outdoors learning.

Now, as a Forest School Provider and a Trailblazer school we have even more reason to find so many more ways to make learning outdoors fun. The new Outdoor Hub, which stands next to the polytunnel is getting plenty of use and it is lovely to see how this extra space is allowing shared working. Whole house groups are now working on learning tasks together as you can see below.



Literacy in the outdoor Hub



Storytelling Week activity



Horticulture session



In front of our new polytunnel



Reading in the Hub



Our Outdoor Hub and Staff



Horticulture Session

"The extensive learning environment outside is delightful. It provides a multitude of learning opportunities. Many pupils flourish while learning outside. Great thought has been given to the design and use of outside spaces" Ofsted 2018

Discovery Club



Our science curriculum is delivered through our Discovery club which is a highly practical way of looking at cause and effect elements of science. Watching dispersal patterns and creating cloud formations has been a focus of our seasons theme work.

Museum Visit



We continue to explore places that are suitable and educational for our students to visit. The Ironbridge museum was a wonderful historical experience which allowed the children to see the past, visit houses, look at different transport and worklife.

“Staff support and encourage the children to socialise inside and outside the home and to participate in community activities.”



Transition Programme - our post 16 curriculum offers experience of travelling in a taxi, on the train and on a public bus. Using the train station to purchase a ticket, waiting for a train and travelling between stations are all new challenges that our older students are prepared for before entering the adult world.

Animal Assisted Therapy



We are delighted that Annie has settled in so well and we are now able to offer horse riding once again on site as part of our animal assisted therapy programme.

Storytelling

Week



Linking in with National Storytelling week, the children experienced three different types of stories. The first was with our puppets.

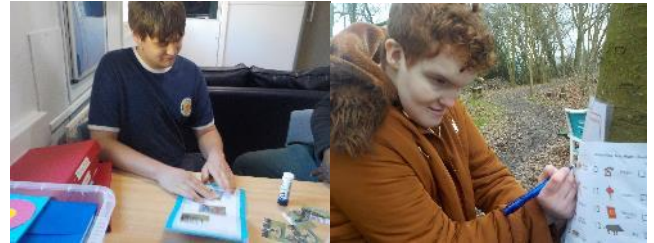


The second story involved an umbrella and lots of pictures. As the story was told the pictures were added and at times the umbrella was spun and the pictures were given speed and motion.



Our third story involving the Gruffalo was told outdoors following a trail. Models of the Gruffalo joined the children as they discovered hidden items, special footprints and marking and had a variety of storytelling activities to do along the route. Towards the end of the trail the Outdoor Hub came into very good use offering indoor space to tell more stories and complete further activities related to this wonderful story book. Throughout this week we were able to highlight the joy of reading and storytelling.

Literacy



Literacy and numeracy form key parts of every learning activity throughout our waking day. All children are following the early reading, writing and mathematics standards set out in the Rochford report since the move away from the P levels of attainment. We have added into our curriculum 'Write Dance' which is giving the children a better grasp of writing skills having a positive impact on many of the activities they do throughout the day.

Numeracy



Sorting, grouping numbers, recognising numbers, creating sequences or patterns and using money in exchange transactions are regularly part of our work.

As usual we have had a term full of very active weekends. These weekends have linked with the national Birdwatch event, included a spa weekend just after Christmas, followed a Scottish theme at Burns Night, explored China during the Chinese New year and also looked at Space, Superheros and the Jungle.

Big Garden Birdwatch Weekend



Space Weekend



Spa Weekend!



Book into your Diary - Friday 8th May - Parent Picnic Day (Barbeque, Inflatable obstacle course)



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