

## Our Outdoor Learning Environment

In 2015, Ofsted visited the school and suggested that our outdoor learning environment needed improving in order to support children to make progress in their learning and development whilst exploring outside. As a result of this, we worked hard to secure funding to re-design the space, ensuring that it provided our children with endless opportunities to learn and take risks. Our Outdoor learning environment now includes:

- A natural wooden climbing area with opportunities to balance, swing, leap and clamber!
- A large water area with pebble pool. Children fill, empty, pour, damn, splash and paddle in the water on a daily basis. In the winter, children help themselves to wellies and waterproofs to keep themselves dry (or as dry as possible!) and in the summer, they love to take their shoes and socks off before joining in with the fun!
- A natural 'den' with brightly coloured disks that catch the sunlight. Children like to build their own spaces, snuggle up with a book or role-play within this space.
- A mud kitchen and restaurant area. This part of the garden never looks tidy, but our children explore a range of materials (soil, sand, pinecones, pebbles and more) to make mud pies, soups, cakes and bakes within their own purpose-built mud kitchen area. Although very mucky, this area is ever-evolving.
- Opportunities to race, share and take turns on one of our many trikes, bikes and scooters. We even have our own wheeled chariot that the children like to take turns pulling along. Within this area, children like to use timers and road signs to support their play and remind one another of how to share effectively!

As well as these larger areas, opportunities to count, make marks, measure, read and make friends are throughout our outdoor learning environment.



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