



Outdoor Learning

June 2025

What a busy time it's been since our last outdoor learning newsletter! And with this heat, the woods have been the coolest place to be!



Our **KS3 groups** have really shone as explorers, caretakers and gardeners. They've been **learning together** by examining pond life, identifying animal tracks, building bird nests, making butterfly feeders, setting up wormeries and planting sunflower seeds.



Stain glass window artwork by KS2 and KS3

They've also shown fantastic ownership of our woods, a great example of their **getting ready** learning muscle in action. They've made paths, spread wood chips, stabilised the stepping stones, and used loppers to cut away any overhanging branches.



It was brilliant to see them not only decide on their own rules but also **bravely** hammer them up on wooden planks!



It's not been all work, play's been a vital part of their learning too, with water games that included a rain sustainability challenge and using a metal detector to uncover some of Gosden's history. They nurtured their creative sides with fairy gardens, nature-inspired arts and crafts, and clay projects. And of course, there's been that great community feel, warmed by hot chocolate on colder days!



OUTDOOR
LEARNING

It's fantastic watching the learners grow in confidence as they use the bow saw to create log slices and prepare firewood. Their upcoming challenges include making an obstacle course from upcycled materials and a wildlife friendly fence around the woods.



Our **KS4 outdoor learning group** really put their **keep improving** learning muscle to work. They focused on developing their communication skills through team games, which supported their project work. Fire lighting sharpened their listening skills, and they safely mastered the bow saw to cut firewood, often heard saying, "to me, to you!" In Maths, they enjoyed a meadow pattern obstacle course and created some mandala pattern art using natural resources.



O U T D O O R L E A R N I N G

Falcons have been taking science outdoors, **problem-solving** with states of matter – it's definitely easier to get messy outside! They completed several different experiments and got **creative** by acting out states of matter.



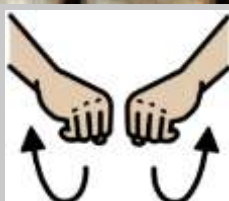
Kestrels have been focusing on measurement, gauging tree heights, and carefully crafting bunting. They're also busy building bird and bat boxes, really honing their **problem-solving** and **listening skills**.



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OUTDOOR LEARNING



Foxes class have been getting stuck into community work, which is easy when nature brings everyone together so positively! They've done a great job keeping our community tidy through litter picking, used their **creative, problem solving and keep trying** skills to build a den, and **explored** the mud kitchen to serve up some delicious food! They've helped decorate the woods with ribbon and enjoyed spending time together through a pretend camping sleepover.





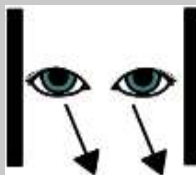
Badgers are **exploring** habitat, community, and respect for themselves and others. They loved pond exploration and have decorated the willow dome. They even uncovered microhabitats under logs and have embraced **creative** freedom, **noticing** various animal poo types along the way, which prompted lots of **asking questions**! They have also helped keep our school grounds tidy by litter picking.



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Rabbits on a number hunt around the meadow.



Visitors to Gosden House School!

Badgers, Foxes and Rabbits welcomed visitors Steph and Sue from **ZERO Carbon Guildford**. They led a session on chalk grassland habitats, after which the children got **creative** making beautiful butterflies.



The **Surrey County Council Tree Planting Team** are coming! They're on a mission to plant 1.2 million trees in Surrey, and they want our help! They will support us to plan and give us advice. So... Kestrels, let's get measuring and figure out how many more trees we can plant!



Nicola

Nicola Hall, Outdoor Learning Lead

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