



Outdoor Learning

Time spent outdoors often provides the most memorable learning experiences and helps children to make sense of the world around them by putting their learning into a meaningful context.

At Hurst Knoll St James' CE Primary School we believe that every child should experience the world beyond the classroom as an essential part of learning and personal development. The outdoor environment has massive potential for providing learning opportunities. We are extremely fortunate to be set in beautiful grounds with woodland and wildlife area and surrounded by an environment rich in opportunities and we make full use of our local area, including the park, to enhance our educational provision. We have a decking area situated outside the Reception, Year one and two classroom and access to outside from each classroom. We have a poly-tunnel where we grow fruit and vegetables and several planting areas and raised growing beds. We also have direct access through a gate to the local community garden.

The outdoor environment offers motivating, exciting, different, relevant and easily accessible activities from Foundation through to Year 6. Our outdoor learning experiences are activities linked predominantly to our Cornerstones curriculum. However opportunities for outdoor learning exist within and across all curriculum areas and help to develop personal and social skills, communication, problem solving, thinking skills and teamwork.

Outdoor learning experiences are often remembered for a lifetime. Integrating learning and outdoor experiences, whether through play in the immediate grounds or adventures further afield, provides relevance and depth to the curriculum in ways that are difficult to achieve indoors.

Learning outdoors can be enjoyable, creative, challenging and adventurous and helps children learn by experience and grow as confident and responsible citizens who value and appreciate the natural environment.