

Guide for Parents



Our Nature Area

At St. Helen's we are fortunate to have an area in the school dedicated to nature. This provides an essential resource for teachers and children; providing stimulation to learn more about woodland life, plants and animals but also how to care for our environment and protect it for future use by everyone. All curriculum areas can be taught outside.



What will happen in the nature area ?

This year, all classes will have the opportunity to use this area. Each session will last approximately an hour and a half. Activities will include games, building dens, imaginative play, natural crafts, using tools, fires and cooking, scavenger hunts, art work, tree climbing, pond dipping, quiet reflective time and caring for the environment.



What to wear?

Wearing the right clothing is essential to promote enjoyment and love of nature. Please wear these clothes to school on the appointed day – the children will be reminded by their class teacher! You will receive an email reminder as well.

Winter : hats, gloves, scarves, waterproof footwear (wellies/boots), warm but old clothing – long tops and bottoms, old coat/fleece.

Summer : old long trousers/leggings, short sleeved top, hat, trainers (sandals are not appropriate).

Nature area visits will occur in all weathers including rain! Dependent on the weather, a change of clothes may be needed.

Be prepared for the children to return home muddy and dirty!



Benefits of Nature Area sessions:

Develops a positive attitude to nature,

Promotes caring for the environment,

Promotes a positive attitude to learning,

Promotes independence,

Raises personal confidence,

Builds friendships,

Develops physical activity,

Promotes risk taking in a safe, secure environment,

Develops an understanding of nature and wildlife,

Develops wider social skills.



Safety

Each session will be led by the class teacher who will be accompanied by a teaching assistant. Risk assessments for the site and activities are carried out for every session. Before each session children are reminded of the agreements made and all safety aspects are considered.



Questions

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact your class teacher or Mrs Miller (Year 6 teacher – Thursday and Fridays). I will be happy to explain further.

