



## Welly Wednesday Rationale

Children in the EYFS have access to the outdoor environment daily. In addition to this each EYFS class will spend a whole day learning in our school gardens and woods 'Welly Wednesday'. This was developed in line with the Natural Thinkers programme that supports teachers and practitioners in connecting children with nature, through practical activities that are inspiring and motivating. For more information about Natural Thinkers click [here](#)

### The outdoor environment

- Being outdoors has a positive impact on children's sense of well-being and helps all aspects of children's development.
- Being outdoors offers opportunities for doing things in different ways and on different scales than when indoors.
- It gives children first-hand contact with weather, seasons and the natural world.
- Outdoor environments offer children freedom to explore, use their senses, and be physically active and exuberant (EYFS)
- "Outdoors should provide opportunities for children to engage in planned & freely chosen play experiences & should offer risk, challenge, variety & fun". (Learning Through Landscapes)
- "Outdoor play is a vital element of young children's Physical, Social & Emotional development & as every practitioner knows, play is a young child's mechanism and medium for learning. Therefore, making the most out of outdoor play is essential, providing rich & varied experiences for children & early years settings are in a unique position to offer these". (Learning Through Landscapes)

**Aim:** To enable children to experience the outdoor environment through:

- For the outdoor environment to be made available throughout the whole session providing a good balance between child-initiated and adult-led experiences.
- To provide appropriate clothing encouraging children to experience the outdoors in all weathers.
- Promote the emotional well-being of children through connecting to nature (see Heath Action Plan)

### Objectives:

- To provide continuous provision in order to encourage independent learners in the outdoor environment.
- To observe, access and record children's learning in the outdoor environment to inform future planning.

## **Method**

### **The staff will:**

- Provide appropriate clothing for example; rain coats, waterproof trousers & wellies and sun hats in the summer.
- Plan for a wide range of exciting & stimulating experiences, planning to meet all children's interests.
- Use the weather as a stimulus for planning activities
- Incorporate literacy, numeracy, phonics and the wider curriculum into the environment
- Learn about risk and how to be safe outdoors
- Encourage children to be independent learners and to freely access the outdoor environment developing skills of observation and enriching their vocabulary and understanding of nature and the world.

### **Health & Safety (See Health & Safety Policy)**

- Site supervisor to check grounds daily & carry out litter pickup
- Regular garden maintenance
- Staff to do a visual check before children access outdoors.
- Children to be made part of carrying out risk assessments of the garden and woodlands so that they can manage their own safety.
- Risk assessments to be carried out on enhanced provisions.

**Equal Opportunities** All children will have access to the Welly Wednesday curriculum regardless of gender, special educational needs, race, home or cultural background.