

### A message from Miss Arnold, our Outdoor Learning Lead

Outdoor Learning and the environment is something that I am really passionate about. As an Outdoor Specialist and Beach/Coastal teacher it is really important that we can utilise the surrounding space that we have around us to its full teaching potential. Outdoor Learning is a great for visual learning, team work and communication skills and it is a pleasure to see the children thrive.

### Design and Purpose

At Darlinghurst we have all different learners and inquisitive children. Outdoor Learning focus is on the Edison curriculum whilst using Learning and Life skills as a platform. Every child is given the opportunity to experience lessons with varied practical activities. We want our children to experience awe and wonder and what better way than through outdoor learning. As part of this, children can tap into their personal, social, emotional and spiritual well-being. Outdoor Learning contributes to children making connections with each other and nature, helping support their well-being

In Outdoor Learning we support every child and challenge to enable children to make progress. Children have the opportunity to learn new skills and share their experiences, both educational and creative. Outdoor Learning builds on children's team work skills, confidence in communication and groups skills. English, Maths, Science and Geography are taught outside as an extension to the classroom through the Connected Curriculum. Children are able to discover, explore and connect through the half termly topics we follow indoors and outdoors.

### Difference

Our children are successful learners and have a fantastic environment at Darlinghurst to thrive in. They develop their knowledge through the lessons which are provided with a focus on their Learning and Life skills. It is a continuing process to provide the children with different experiences so the child can build on changes that may take place in the future. Outdoor Learning is an engaging, effective form of learning, whether the emphasis is personal, social or environmental. Outdoor learning provides first-hand experience of the natural world.

Supportive learning with Learning through Landscapes has enabled fresh ideas for implementing into the Learning and Life skills framework and connective curriculum for Learning outside the classroom.

**'Achieving Excellence Together'**

### Outdoor Learning Reflections

#### Summer 2022



We have focused on Think, Think, Think and Speaking and listening this term. The children have continued to thrive in the Outdoor Learning spaces around the school and have especially enjoyed the wild flower garden and well-being area. Summer term has been a focus on Geography and map reading skills and all children have learned about maps/orienteering. Some year groups I have had the pleasure of extending



their map reading skills to Chalkwell Park. I have also been able to practice my Coastal Practitioner knowledge at Chalkwell Beach. We have embraced Outdoor Classroom day and had the opportunity to complete a challenge for 30 Days Wild in connection with the WWF. Outdoor Learning and Art this term

were able to collaborate in a fantastic whole school project called "Art makes children Powerful". Using natural materials and inspiration from nature the children have created sculptures to be housed in the well-being garden. We have connected Learning outside to Mental Health awareness and the Silver Jubilee celebrations.

- Year 6 – Categorising animals – What are Invertebrates and Vertebrates?  
What animals in our school have an exoskeleton?  
Slugs and snails. Can a Snails navigate?  
What are the differences between slugs and Snails?  
Map reading and map skills  
How do we read a map using a 4/6 Grid reference and Compass  
Orienteering challenge around school using 4 grid map and co-ordinates
- Year 5 - Children researched the five different animal groups – Insects, Mammals, Birds, Reptiles and Amphibians.  
We looked at predators, producers and consumers and food chains.  
Children looked at Ecosystems and organisms and how they depend on each other  
Map reading and map skills  
How do we read a map using a 4/6 Grid reference and Compass  
Metal and Art project "Art makes Children Powerful"
- Year 4 - Categorising animals/plants – Focus on Insects and exoskeletons  
Producers, plants and Algae  
Photosynthesis and plants and how the sun and shade affect growth  
Metal and Art project "Art makes Children Powerful"  
Orienteering at Chalkwell Park – Map reading and co-ordinate skills
- Year 3 – Celebrated Earth day – Litter pick and environment awareness  
Reproduction in flowers – How do we get seed/flowers?  
Hedgehog awareness and Habitats  
Mental Health Awareness week  
Coastal Practitioner sessions at Chalkwell Beach – Geography and Coast  
map reading and map skills  
How do we read a map using a 4/6 Grid reference and Compass  
Metal and Art project "Art makes Children Powerful"
- Year 2 - Habitats and how the weather affects different animals?  
What animals live in shady, dark and wet environments  
Drawing/designing our own Insects and creating them using natural materials in the well-being garden  
Introductory to maps and what we might find on a map  
What is a four grid reference map  
Metal and Art project "Art makes Children Powerful"
- Year 1 - Spring Watch extension – What differences around school can we see from Spring to Summer  
How have the trees and plants changed from Spring – Summer/ Photosynthesis  
What changes happen to the animals Spring – Summer  
Hibernation - Bees (Queen Bee and reproduction)  
Introductory to an Atlas and Maps  
What symbols/pictures might we find on a map  
Metal and Art project "Art makes Children Powerful"



## Spring 2022

In Outdoor Learning this term we have been focusing on Becoming Better Learners and Knowing Me Knowing You. We have shared some great team work and communication activities combined with independent problem solving tasks. We have in Outdoor learning as a whole school contributed towards The Great British Bird watch, Eco week and Science week.

Year 6 – Environmental Awareness and litter pick. How rubbish can impact the school and animal habitats. Discussed for Eco week what is a single use plastic? We researched Charles Darwin and discussed Evolution. Children created their own Insect drawings factoring in climate change, environment and what they would look like in 500 years. We discussed why it important to support our Birds in Spring. We made Bird feeders using pine cones and apples and hung them around school. Children became nature detectives and explored the Darlington grounds looking for Vertebrates and Invertebrates.



Year 5 - We researched Fairgrounds and explored Gravity, Friction speed and forces. Children made roller coasters using marbles pipes and materials around school. For Eco schools – We discussed decomposition of food and items and how long they take to decompose. Children made kites and discussed symmetry and aerodynamics and had the chance to fly them, researched solar, hydropower, wind turbines and natural forces.



Year 4 - Map identification and how to use an atlas. Map identification with a focus around North and South America. We made Mayan temples using natural materials in the wellbeing garden. Geo- caching around school using maps for re-enforced learning linked to North America. We looked at the senses and the children used team work and communication to complete a Blind fold challenge – Linking in with the topic, 'What happens inside of Us? We researched the digestive system and measured out the large and small intestines using measuring tape and rope. Children made a hand skeleton using sticks and stones in the well-being garden and we Discussed the different parts of the hand.

Year 3 - Researched food chains and looked at predators and prey. They looked at a life cycle of a frog and looked in the pond to see if we could find any Frogs We explored "Why are Bugs important?" Children discovered Insects, Arachnids, Snails and Earthworms on a Bug hunt. They created their own 3D Bugs using natural materials in the well-being Garden. We completed a Spring Insect hunt and recorded on spotter sheets what our findings were. We researched Bees and went on a challenge to spot Bumble Bees and Honey Bees





Year 2 - We looked at materials with a focus on flexible and waterproof. The children investigated the school and completed a pie chart of what materials Darlington school and grounds is built with. We discussed Charles McIntosh and completed our own waterproof experiments around school with a focus on wood, metal and plastic. Linking in with Chinese New Year, we made kites and flew them outside in the wind. Children made their own Bird nests using natural materials in the

well-being garden

Year 1 - We looked at materials around school with a focus on transparent and opaque. Children discussed why different materials are used for different things. They investigated the different parts of flower with team building games followed by a dissection of a Flower. They completed a grounds survey of what plants and animals need why linking in with our topic, 'Why is water precious?'. We went on a nature walk around school – What can we find in the school grounds that we can identify with the season Spring?



### Autumn 2021

This term the children have been set lots of different activities/challenges around their Learning and Life skills. We have focused on Learning together, It's up to me, working in groups and communication.

Year 6 – Environmental Awareness and litter pick. How rubbish can impact the school and animal habitats.

Children designed their own Solar system on the playground using chalk and powder paint

Researched and built our own Anderson shelters - WW2

Investigation into leaves and trees in Autumn – What part does photosynthesis play?

Year 5 – How can we make Darlington school Eco friendly. Litter pick with a focus on single use plastics  
Black History month – Focus on Hip Hop/Graffiti. Children designed their own Graffiti design on the playground using chalks.

Children designed their own Ant worlds using natural materials in the Well Being garden

Learned a new skill – Fire striking/building in the Outdoor Learning area

Year 4 - Children had lessons around the senses.

Rope Blindfold challenge – Children had to follow an obstacle course blindfolded

Vibrations/Sound – Children had to compose a piece of music with inspiration from the

Group Stomp. Using materials around school, Bin lids, sticks, watering cans, brooms and plant pots.

Year 3 - What is a magnet and what is it used for?

How do we use a compass to help us map read – Where are North and South on a compass?

Magnetic experiments – What is magnetic in the playground?

History of Mayan Temples – Children created Mayan Temples using natural materials in the Wellbeing garden.

Year 2 - Materials and what are their functions – Transparent and waterproof

Outside survey of what materials the school is made of – Wood, Brick glass and Plastic

Investigation of Leaves and their functions

Self-portraits using the leaves around school

Great fire of London – What is a fire triangle?



Children made Tudor houses and we placed them on the fire in Hagrid's Hut to see How quickly they caught on fire.

Year 1 – We talked about animals that hibernate and why  
What happens to the leaves in Autumn – Photosynthesis  
Leaf/natural material art with inspiration from Andy Goldsworthy  
Introduction to map reading and what maps are used for  
How do we use a compass and what are the main focus points?

EYFS - Our main focus was on Seasons and what happens in Autumn  
We went on a walkabout around school and discovered safe and unsafe places around school  
Discussions around hibernation and what it means.  
Children created Hedgehog pictures using different leaves from different trees  
Created chalk poppies on the playground. Why do we have poppies for Remembrance day?

### Outdoor Learning Gallery

