## Education Scotland

Foghlam Alba

## Outdoor Learning Webinar Learning outdoors - Numeracy and Mathematics

## Protocols:

Welcome!

Please take note of the protocols for during the session


- Mute your microphone Turn off your camera Post comments, questions and thoughts into the chat window
- The chat will be facilitated

Please take a moment to say hello in the chat box and tell us where you are and what the weather is like there


Twitter: \#LearnOutdoors



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## Education Scotland

Foghlam Alba

## Learning Outdoors - Numeracy \& Mathematics

Iona Coutts \& Jaclyn Andrews

For Scotland's learners, with Scotland's educators Do luchd-ionnsachaidh na h-Alba, le luchd-foghlaim Alba

## Aims of the Session


$>$ To provide support in getting started in teaching numeracy \& mathematics outdoors.
$>$ Practical examples of using the outdoors to teach numeracy \& mathematics.
> To provide opportunities for good practice to be shared.
> To provide further reading and examples to be explored after the session.


## Getting Started



## Meet pupils outside

- Go out after or before lunch or break - stay out for 15 mins
- Use the journey to and from classroom as part of the lesson

Make outdoor lessons Routine and Expected

- Be comfortable; appropriate clothing for all
- Build up confidence, skills and experience
- Discuss and create boundaries and expectations with the pupils


Be flexible

- Be spontaneous where appropriate
- Allow for pupil led learning
- Encourage creativity


## 10 tips for Outdoor Learning \& Curriculum for Excellence

 in Recovery Phase1 It's learning in outdoor settings
2 It can be delivered by all educators
3 It's for all ages
4 It's relevant for all subject areas, and can be interdisciplinary
5 It helps deliver Scotland's Curriculum for Excellence
It supports health $\&$ wellbeing
Support for teachers, educators and schools is at the heart of a Recovery Phase response
8 Resources, information, expertise, and additional capacity are accessible and available
9 Green and blue space is learning space
10 Teachers sharing their Outdoor Learning experiences is a rich source of support

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { https://nnolscotland.blogspot.com/2020/08/10-tips-for-- } \\
& \underline{\text { outdoor-learning.html - Rob Bushby article August } 2020}
\end{aligned}
$$

Consult National and Local Authority guidelines in relation to equipment.

## Getting Started

Start with something you feel comfortable with.

Establish clear ground rules with your class.

Set clear boundaries, decide this together with learners. Use markers e.g. cones, chalk, flags, etc.

Be comfortable and dress appropriately.

Outdoor box - ready to lift
Consider using nonequipment activities to begin often, start small and build up.
$\qquad$


## Useful Tips

## Useful Playground Markings

- ten frames
- empty number lines
- empty grids
- Cartesian diagram
- Venn/Carroll Diagrams


## Limited outdoor space/resources?

Collect resources to take into your establishment.

- Sticks
- Stones
- leaves



## Sticks (measure example)

- Find me a stick longer/shorter than your hand.
- Find me a stick longer than/shorter than/around the same size as 1 metre, half a metre, etc.
- Can you find a stick which is roughly a quarter of the size of this one?
- Find two sticks that when put together measure as close to 75 cm as possible.
- Can you find sticks that measure roughly 1.75 metres when placed together?
- Find a stick and measure its length choosing a sensible unit of measurement.
- Create a 2D square/rectangle/triangle and find an approximation for it's area.


## Other ideas

## 1 metre rope snake



## Credit - Creative Star -

https://www.mathsweek.scot/schools/idea s-and-inspiration/maths-outdoors

## pocket ten frame



## Early Level



## Find the number

Use chalk to draw numbers on the pavement. Shout various numbers out and the child stands by the matching number.

Go for a 'number hunt' and look for numbers in the local environment, e.g. door numbers, street signs.

MNU 0-01a MNU 0-02a

## Patterns

Look for patterns within the environment.

Collect items, e.g. stones, leaves, sticks and create repeating patterns.

Make moving patterns, e.g. hop, two jumps, four skips and repeat.

Time
Notice the trees and discuss the ways they change throughout the year.

Take a walk during the day, repeat the same walk at night. Discuss the differences you notice.

Create clocks using chalk or naturally found material.

Look for clocks during a walk e.g. on a town hall, a church or a bus stop.

Use a 1-12 number line drawn with chalk to link to a drawn circular clock face.

## Numbers

Make outdoor number lines using chalk. Jump along it and count.

Find a specified number of objects from the natural environment, e.g. 5 leaves or 4 sticks.

Use chalk to draw ten frames. Collect items and count them. Egg boxes with ten spaces can also be used.


MNU 0-01a MNU 0-02a

## 2D shape

Use chalk to draw 2D shapes.
Use paintbrushes and water to draw 2D shapes on a dry ground.

Create 2D shapes using sticks or stones.

Find various shapes within the environment, e.g. rectangular windows, circular wheels, etc.

MTH 0-19a MTH 0-16a

## Measurement

Fill and empty various containers. Use language such as 'heavier, lighter, more and less.'

Find objects and compare lengths. Use language such as 'longer, shorter, taller.' If sticks have been collected you could line them up from shortest to longest.

Measure particular areas, e.g. a path or a garden using giant steps, baby steps or toy cars.

Collect items such as pebbles,
leaves, twigs and make comparison.
bigger/smaller, longer/shorter
Collect rainfall in a jug and keep track of it each day.

MTH 0-19a
MTH 0-13a

MNU 0-10a MNU 0-03a

## Early Level



## First Level

## Multiplication and Division

Draw Venn diagrams on the ground to explore multiplication.


Use leaves and sticks to explore multiplication and division.

$5 \times 2=10 \quad 10 \div 2=5 \quad 10 \div 5=2$


Four lots of three leaves

Shape

Identify and name the 2D shape names in the environment: e.g. square, rectangle, triangle, circle, hexagon, pentagon.

MTH 1-16a

## Probability

Discussion of various probability events. What is the likelihood of certain things, e.g. Leaves falling from trees, the tree falling down, finding a bug, etc.

MNU 1-22a

## Partitioning

Use chalk to show partitions.


MNU 1-02a

## Problem Solving

Creating different structures using natural or man made items.

## Fractions

Draw various 2D shapes and section them into halves and quarters.


Collect materials and use them to calculate fractions.
'I have collected four items. Three quarters of these items are leaves.'


Use outdoor objects to arrange materials and create linking facts.

$$
\left(\frac{1}{4} \text { of } 20 \text { is } 5\right)\left(\frac{2}{4} \text { of } 20 \text { is } 10\right)\left(\frac{3}{4} \text { of } 20 \text { is } 15\right)\left(\frac{4}{4} \text { of } 20 \text { is } 20\right)
$$

Clear links should be made between fractions,
multiplication and division as this will benefit learners when moving to abstract calculations.
$\begin{array}{lll}4 \times 5=20 & 5 \times 4=20 & \frac{1}{4} \text { of } 20 \text { is } 5 \\ 20 \div 4=5 & 20 \div 5=4 & \frac{1}{5} \text { of } 20 \text { is } 4\end{array}$


MNU 1-07a MTH 1-07c

## First Level

| Measurement <br> Find objects longer/shorter/about the same as 1 m . <br> Estimate and draw a variety of lines. <br> Collect and measuring rainfall. | Angles <br> Make right angle testers using the corner of a rectangular sheet of paper. Find as many right angles outside as possible. <br> It will become clear that most right angles are man made . Investigate if there are right angles to be found in nature. <br> Make shapes with sticks and count the number of right angles. | Grid references <br> Mark out a large grid using chalk on a pavement. Give instructions about which square to stand in e.g. A5 or C7, etc. They can also draw shapes in given grid references. <br> Each of you set up your own small battleship grid with 1 or 2 ships on it (keep them hidden from each other). Play against each other to sink opponents ship. <br> Take turns of being blindfolded and the other has to give instructions, e.g. forward 4, turn right, etc. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Data Handling | 12 Hour Clocks | Symmetry |
| Draw Venn diagrams/carroll diagrams using chalk. Classify various item found, e.g. smooth, rough, brown, green, natural, man made, etc. | Draw large circles with chalk on the ground. Divide it into quadrants and add numbers to make a clock face. Collect sticks to use as hands and ask them to show the correct time (o'clock, quarter past, half past and quarter to). | Create symmetrical pictures using natural resources. <br> Draw symmetrical patterns on the ground. <br> Look for symmetry within nature. |
| Collect data about a variety of topics, e.g. litter in the street, traffic in surrounding area, types of trees. |  | MTH 1-19a |
| MNU 1-20a MNU 1-20b | MNU 1-10a |  |

## Second Level

| Symmetry | Patterns and Relationships | Measure |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Identify symmetry outdoors. | Look for Fibonnacci sequences in real life. | Measure a variety of items to the cm , fallen twigs, benches, windows, height of plants, etc. |
| Use chalk to create pictures with multiple lines of symmetry. | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nt2OIMAJj60MTH 2-13a | Draw a variety of different lines, mark halfway, then half again, etc. Record as decimals, $0.25,0.5,0.75$, |
| Use natural materials to create an image. Ask a partner to create a symmetrical version. |  | etc. |
| MTH 2-19a <br> Shape |  | Find the area of different parts of the garden or area outside. |
| Identify 3D shape in the local environment, discuss the properties of these shapes. How are these shapes used within the environment. <br> Pupils to draw nets of 3D objects on the ground. <br> MTH 2-16a |  | Draw shapes with given perimeters. You could use sticks to create these shapes. |
|  |  | Use chalk to draw shapes with same perimeters but different areas. <br> MNU 2-11a <br> MNU 2-11b <br> MNU 2-11c |
| Data and analysis <br> Use outdoors to collect information on something of their choice, e.g. traffic survey, types of houses, types of trees, etc. organise this information and decide on a method of presenting the data they have collated. Encourage them to make conclusions from this. | Time - Seconds | Plotting Points |
|  | Time themselves/each other to the exact second - how long does it take to run 100 m , run 'round the block', throw and catch a ball 20 times, etc. Challenge them to improve each time. | Draw grids on the ground and plot various points using the correct notation e.g. $(5,3)$. <br> MTH 2-18a |
| MNU 2-20a <br> MNU 2-20b | Calculate the duration of time it takes to complete an activity, e.g. go for a walk, run or cycle using the starting and |  |
|  | finishing times. Estimate how long it might take before the journey begins. |  |
|  | MNU 2-10a MNU 2-10b |  |

## Second Level

## Fractions, Decimal Fractions and Percentages

Use chalk to draw number lines and mark points in different ways.


Collect items and note the different ways of recording what has been found.
$\frac{\mathbf{3}}{\mathbf{4}}$ or $\mathbf{0 . 7 5}$ or $\mathbf{7 5 \%}$

of what I have found are leaves.

Count items within the local area, e.g. cars, bushes, trees and calculate how many of them are a certain colour or type. Use decimal fractions and percentages.


## Angles

Look around the local area and divide everything into 2 groups - manmade and natural. Discuss findings. Most man made items will be right angles and natural items will usually be acute or obtuse.

Create pictures using a variety of sticks. Mark obtuse angles with one colour, acute with another and right with a drawing of a square.

Identify and classify angles in the local area using the terms acute, right, obtuse, straight, reflex.

Mark out compass points and work with a partner to follow/give directions.

MTH 2-17a
MTH 2-17b

## Algebraic Equations

Use items found outdoors to create simple


## Negative Numbers

Use chalk to draw number lines including negative numbers.

Look for things in the real world where negative numbers are used, e.g. temperature, bank balances, buildings, golf scores, bank balances.

## More Useful Tips

## Outdoor Learning with Secondary Classes

- Send a reminder the day before
- Meet the learners outside
- Leave a "note on the door"
- Take a walkie talkie or mobile phone
- Maintain the usual expectations regarding behaviour
- Consider how you can share time and learning with colleagues from other departments
- Consider how you could work with other agencies or local employers on an outdoor project


## Third Level

## Ratio and fractions

Collect items and use them to explore ratio. For example, in what ratios are different types of leaves found? Are different samples similar or not? What does this tell you? Can these ratios be simplified?

This could be interleaved with asking questions about fractions, what fraction of the sample is each type?

Links to data analysis can also be made regarding sampling variation. Links to Environmental Science could be made.

MNU 3-08a

## Multiples, factors and primes

Use an outdoor 100 square to chalk off composite numbers leaving the prime numbers to 100 (Sieve of Eratosthenes)

## Powers and roots

Explore the exponential growth of powers of two by laying out rows of stones, or pine cones for example. Make sure to use items that are plentifu!!!


Alternatively, if a painted chess or draughts board is available on the ground the rice on a chessboard legend can be explored.

## Angles

Encourage learners to use chalk to create pictures on the ground made of parallel and non-parallel lines. Ask learners to find complementary, supplementary, corresponding, alternate and vertically opposite angles. Learners could estimate the size of one or two angles within their diagrams and use these estimates to calculate the sizes of any related angles.

MTH 3-17a

## Negative numbers

Use chalk to draw number lines including negative numbers.

Learners can physically add and subtract integers by moving along the number line.

## Third Level

## Speed, distance and time

Estimate and measure the time taken to walk, hop, skip and run a fixed distance. How accurate were the estimates? What were the relative speeds, e.g. was running twice as fast as walking? Calculate the average speeds. How long would it take to cover one kilometre running at this speed? Links could be made with PE and methods for accurate time measurement in sport.

> MNU 3-10a

## Data and analyisis

Collect items or data from school grounds, local gardens or green spaces such as fallen leaves, cones or pictures of wild flowers. Discuss methods of collecting data to reduce or avoid bias.

Link with Environmental Science or Biology colleagues to analyse the data and compare results. How can the data be presented? What does the data show? How does collection methodology affect the results?

## Patterns

Use sticks to make patterns that follow linear relationships. Numbers of sticks can be written in chalk to deduce the pattern and determine a rule.


## MTH 3-13a

## Properties of 2D shapes

Investigate constructing triangles and other 2D shapes on the ground using a metre stick or other straight edge and a piece of string attached to chalk instead of compasses.

## Scale drawings

Working outdoors enables learners the chance to create large scale diagrams and pictures, removing restrictions of scale imposed by working in the classroom. Learners could produce large scale representations of a variety of objects including those that could be collected from the outdoors.

MTH 3-17c

MTH 3-20b

## Fourth Level

## Measurement and shape

Calculate the perimeters and areas of complex shapes created by the lines on sports pitches. Use a variety of methods to measure dimensions to varying degrees of accuracy and compare solutions. Explore the impact of inaccuracies when solving related problems, e.g. finding the cost of painting lines or resurfacing courts.

Use the properties of 3D shapes to build shelters.
Assess their appropriateness in terms of cost of materials used, shelter from weather, space inside etc.

## MNU 4-11a MTH 4-11b MTH 4-16b

 axis?MTH 4-18a MTH 4-18b
"Plot" lines of people on an outdoor coordinate grid. Explore vertical and horizontal lines (as viewed from above). What do the coordinates of all the people have in common? Ask learners to stand on a point with a given property e.g. $y=2 x, y=2 x+1$ to investigate sloping lines.

MTH 4-13c
MTH 4-13d

## Patterns

Use sticks to make patterns that follow linear relationships. Numbers of sticks can be written in chalk to deduce the pattern and determine the general formula for the nth term.


MTH 4-13a

## Gradient

Calculate the gradient of ramps or paths around the school. Significant problem solving might be needed to measure distances involved.

Investigate the gradient of lines between points using an outdoor coordinate grid.

## Maths Week Scotland <br> 28 September - 4 October 2020

Maths Week Scotland is a celebration of the importance of maths in our everyday lives.

Enjoy events and activities across Scotland, and find out about
the maths in everything from solar flares to robots.
We're planning a series of special events throughout the year so follow the hashtag \#MathsWeekScot and also our Twitter to keep up to date with the latest news.

## https://www.mathsweek.scot/news/maths-week-scotland-2020

## OUTDOORS

Making Potions Use maths to take children on a magical adventure!
Gather natural materials or other classroom items such as pebbles, coins, shells, leaves etc. Decide what you want your potion to do. Make you invisible? Be able to fly?

Provide containers of coloured water with utensils such as ladles or whisks. Together, estimate how many cups it will take to fill each container. Whilst filling them, discuss empty, half-empty and full.


Give the children instructions for making their potions like this example.

| Nature Book | Hide and Seek |
| :--- | :--- |

This is a whole class activity.
Before you start work Before you start work out how
many squares your grid will nee in order to fit more than half of your class.
Draw two grids that size on the playground using chalk. EEch grid
point should be large enough for Point should be large enough for
one child to stand in. You will also need to create a set of letter and number cards which match up with
the coordinates on your grid. Split the class into two equal Split the class into two equal groups.
Each group soould be allocated one
of the grids. of the grids.
Create a book exploring numbers using natural materials.
Pages could include:
. 1 petal, 2 leaves, 3 twigs

- Symmetrical pattern of twigs
- Round items

Items longer than 6 cm


Number Hunt Create a number hunt in your outdoor space.

- Place signs with the numbers $1-20$ in an open space

Prepare a selection of cards with numbers represented in different ways such as digit, dots, domino, finger pattern

- Ask children to go and find all the

All children should choose a grordinate to stand on within the
The teir group has been allocated. grid their group has been allocated.
The teacher should then draw a random letter and number from the letters and numbers pile and shout
out the coordinate that they make, e.g. 'B5'.

If there is a child standing on that coordinate they have to leave the grid and stand at the side. The winners are the group which
are the last to have anyone left on their grid.


## OUTDOORS

Sticky Situation
Challenge children individually or in teams to find four sticks which, when placed together, are exactly one metre in length..
Children can only measure the sticks once they have placed them together.

The winning child or group are those with the closest to one metre.

Give it a go through the week with different objects or lengths and see if estimation skills improve!
https://www.mathsweek.scot/news/maths-week-scotland-2020


## OUTDOORS

Sticks and Angles

## Collect a range of stick

 of different lengths.Challenge learners to be the first person to make a picture using the sticks that includes all of
the following.

- a right angle
- an acute angle
- a straight angle
- an obtuse angle
- a reflex angle.

The first person to create a picture with all of these is the winner


A description of the different types of angles can be found here.



## Further Reading/Examples

## Policy and Documentation

> Curriculum for Excellence Through Outdoor Learning
> Outdoor Learning - Practical guidance, ideas and support for teachers and practitioners in Scotland
> Building your Curriculum: Outside and In
$>\underline{\text { CfE Factfile - Outdoor Learning (Parent information) }}$
Education Scotland Outdoor Learning Wakelet


[^0]
## Examples and Further Support - Mathematics

> https://creativestarlearning.co.uk/maths-outdoors/
> https://www.Itt.org.uk/freeresources/?swoof=1\&pa subject=mathematics
> https://thirdspacelearning.com/blog/13-outdoor-maths-activities-early-years-year-6-plus-bonus-ages/
> https://outdoorclassroomday.org.uk/resources/lesson -ideas/

## Keen for more outdoor learning professional learning?

## Previous webinars:

- HT's journey https://youtu.be/Oecsj8AXiTA
- OL across the 4 contexts https://youtu.be/CeFrR2iLy7Y
- Using digital tools to capture, create and share outdoor learning https://youtu.be/YS320AUJL7w and a Sway with all the links from the session https://bit.ly/33ekdJ5
Online teaching learning outdoors 2 hour module (SAPOE):
- https://professionallearning.education.gov.scot/learn/learning-activities/teaching-learning-outdoors/step-1
- STEM Nation Webinar Team - joining code kz41xx4
- Booking https://professionallearning.education.gov.scot/learn/events/


## Evaluation and what next?



## Outdoor Learning Webinar Evaluation

## https://bit.ly/2FwUZNP

Share your outdoor learning, and tag us at @STEMedscot \#LearnOutdoors @edscot_maths

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For Scotland's learners, with Scotland's educators Do luchd-ionnsachaidh na h-Alba, le luchd-foghlaim Alba


[^0]:    Learning for Sustainability/Outdoor Learning $\oplus$

