

## Impact on Children's Learning: Highlights of the Project

### Creating a Nature Garden for the Birds



The “Bring a Plant Day” was one of the particular highlights of the project. Following on from the child-involved planning, an opportunity to develop the garden area around the hide into a bird friendly area was planned. The RSPB provided a list of appropriate plants and many parents donated a plant for the garden. A member of the RSPB team helped the children to create the garden and they were able to discuss the plants and their benefits for wildlife in the garden. It was a very enjoyable day for the children and they developed a great deal of knowledge and skills from the activity. It promoted **challenge and enjoyment** and **progression** through the development of new skills and application of knowledge. It was also a real celebration of all that had been achieved in the project. This has promoted the development of **responsible citizens** through greater awareness of biodiversity and caring for the environment.

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## Active Play Opportunities in Outdoor Suits

### Aims:

\*improved health and wellbeing through sustained interaction with outdoor environment

\*develop their creative skills as the outdoor area will provide more opportunities for role play and other expressive art activities

\*develop social skills through sharing equipment

\*develop opportunities for children to initiate imaginative play experiences for themselves in the outdoor environment with a view to improving transition in outdoor play to Primary 1.

This project has been particularly concerned with building on children's skills to initiate their own complex play ideas in the Nursery environment using a range of equipment. Through promoting children's imaginative games and ideas through all weather play opportunities, it is hoped that this will impact on children's outdoor play independence and ideas when they are in the early years of primary school.

**Challenge and enjoyment** in the Nursery outdoor environment has been developed through the introduction of the new resources and the outdoor suits. In the freedom and comfort of the suits, the children can be creative outside in the cold weather, on a frosty day or in the muddy garden. This is helping us to build on the children's own imaginative play ideas and promote **progression** in their independence and problem solving and creativity in their own games. Developing independence in their social play with others outside helps them to become **responsible citizens**.

This children are having fun raking the leaves on an Autumn day in their new suits.



This child is engaging in creative dance outside with the "wind" equipment on a muddy day in the garden.



This child is using the new cameras to take a picture of an insect in the grass in the garden.



**Social studies: Children have opportunities for enjoyable and meaningful outdoor play in a variety of weather conditions.**



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### Working with parents to improve our learning environment



The children are busy investigating and exploring in the new willow tunnel. This improvement to the garden was suggested by some of the parents. One parent was able to source living willow and staff used it to create a tunnel.

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## Aims:

\*improve literacy and numeracy skills across learning through engaging in projects and accessing resources to take learning forward related to conservation projects

\*develop ICT skills to support and extend learning

\*develop recording skills across the curriculum

The children have experienced meaningful opportunities to develop lifelong skills in using ICT to develop and extend their learning in the outdoor environment. This project has promoted the development of core skills and attitudes in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing through open ended learning opportunities. There are improvements that could be made to the resources available and the implementation of work related to the project to improve the literacy and numeracy experiences. The provision of chalk boards in the bird hide area and places to record birds that have been seen on an ongoing basis would help to promote recording skills. The bird cam still needs to be put into use and we are looking forward to the impact that this will have on learning.

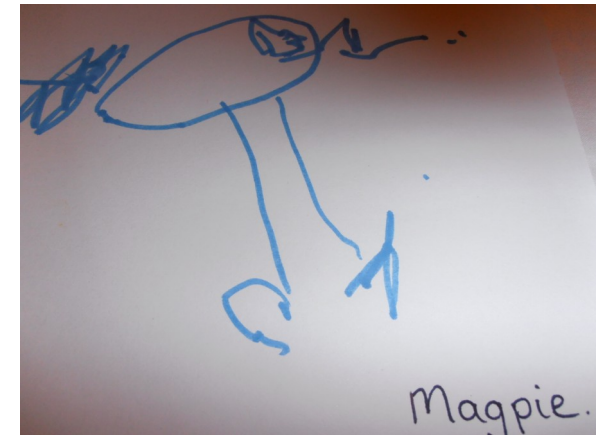
## Literacy and Numeracy



This child is using the new cameras to record her investigation in the garden.



Examples of mark making resulting from the project.





## Next Steps for the Project

- Build on the excellent links that have been made with the RSPB and continue to work in partnership to develop children's learning in the outdoor environment.
- Develop Nursery routines to make it easier for children to access outdoor suits for outdoor play in a range of weather conditions.
- Adapt the new shed to make it easier for children to access a wider range of resources for exploration and investigation in the garden.
- Continue to develop parental involvement in contributing to improvement of the Nursery outdoor learning environment and resources.
- Purchase outdoor chalkboards for fence area next to bird hide to promote literacy and numeracy skills.
- Develop more opportunities for imaginative play related to the nature area through open ended resources, e.g. outdoor role play equipment and storytelling equipment.
- Extend the use of the ICT equipment to include opportunities for reflection on pictures, etc in Nursery. Install the new bird cam (awaiting required resources for this).
- Develop work with eco representatives in the Primary School through the installation of a nest bird cam. Eco representatives from the primary classes to work with the Nursery children to talk about the pictures on the nest camera.