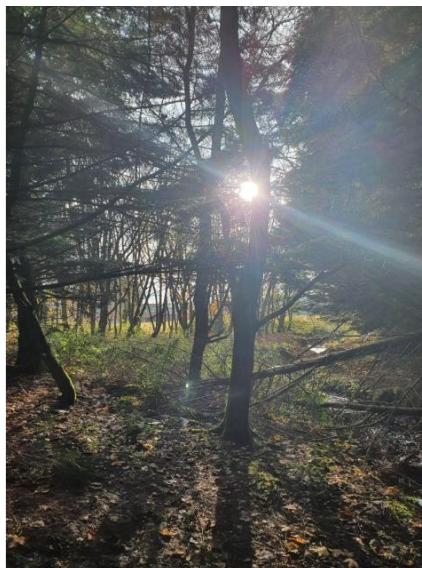




Loudoun Academy John Muir Award

5 pupils from Loudoun Academy recently completed their John Muir Discovery Award. The school is fortunate to have a woodland to the back of the school which has a variety of trees with a burn that runs through it, the perfect combination for our young people to explore and enjoy time in the fresh air.



Pupils wanted to share their woodland with the local primary school so whilst getting to know the area they risk assessed it to support others to enjoy a safe experience, discussing how best to minimise the risks.

They identified which types of trees grow there. And made fairy doors, wind chimes, tree faces and mandala stones to transform their wild place into an inviting Fairy garden. Everything used was assessed to ensure it would not harm animals or plant life that lives there.

"We worked together ensuring that our wild place was loved and litter free. We feel protective over our wild place and like to make sure that the burn is running freely. We have enjoyed making our wild area into a Fairy Garden but have made sure that no part of our wooded area was damaged during the process."

A grand open day was planned inviting teaching and non-teaching staff from school and a few outside visitors to come and visit our Fairy garden. Each visitor was met at the entrance to the Fairy

Garden and pupils talked them through how the Mandala stones and other decorations were made. Staff were invited to write an evaluation ticket and tie it to a feedback tree. Pupils made hot chocolate and homemade cakes for our visitors.

A huge full-length display of the Outdoor Learning for this term was showcased to continue to celebrate this achievement and share with others. Plans are already in place for the types of things we will do in our wild place after Christmas to keep us outside and productive and to achieve the next level of the John Muir Award.



“Our wild place makes us feel; happy, calm, energetic, purposeful, excited and glad to be outside...”

Thanks to Mrs Luke and pupils from Loudoun Academy Inclusion Hub for sharing their story with us.