



Help us create a logo  
and win £200 to spend  
on equipment. Details of  
the photo competition  
are inside.

# Outdoor Learning Newsletter (Vol. 1)

Supporting you to provide regular, planned,  
progressive and challenging opportunities for all  
children and young people to learn outdoors.



# OL @ Ravenswood Primary School

*Planned Learning:* To focus on the development of problem solving and teamwork skills.

*Activity:* Den building.

*Resources:* A range of sheets, tarpaulins, ropes and sticks were provided and children were encouraged to use features in their environment.

*Impact:* Outdoor Learning had a positive impact on pupil engagement and enthusiasm for learning. We continue to use our outdoor spaces on a weekly basis and allow for parental engagement through our “50 things to do before you’re 11  $\frac{3}{4}$ ” annual evening and weekend activities.

*Teacher Comment:* We worked collaboratively with children to plan a range of activities as part of our “Outdoor Classroom Week” which really engaged the children in their learning.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/50-things-to-do>





# Outdoor Learning on GLOW

There is now an Outdoor Learning section on GLOW with lots of resources and information to support you including:

Resources (arranged by CfE level)

Toolkits to develop OL

OL Research

and much more!

The Working Group have also developed two documents to support OL which are available through GLOW:

NLC's Outdoor Learning Framework

Risk Assessment guidance for routine and expected Outdoor Learning

Access the GLOW site here:

<https://tinyurl.com/y92upmj4>





# OL @ Jigsaw Family Learning Centre

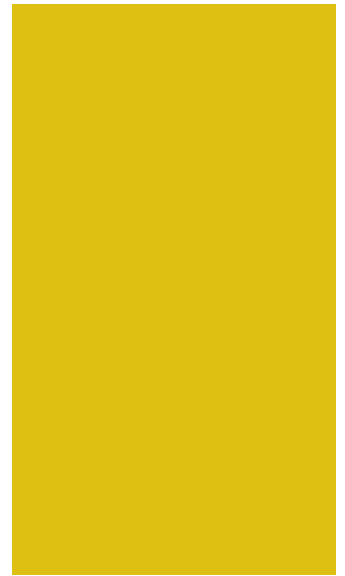
*Planned Learning:* To explore Numeracy through patterns and the seasons.

*Activity:* The children collected a variety of different leaves and bashed them onto cloth to capture their size, shape and pattern.

*Resources:* Cloth, leaves and rubber hammers.

*Impact:* Children have noticed seasonal changes and discovered that wet leaves gave the best print.

*Teacher Comment:* The children decided the next time we should try paper and stones to see how it will turn out.





# +OL @ St Helen's Primary School

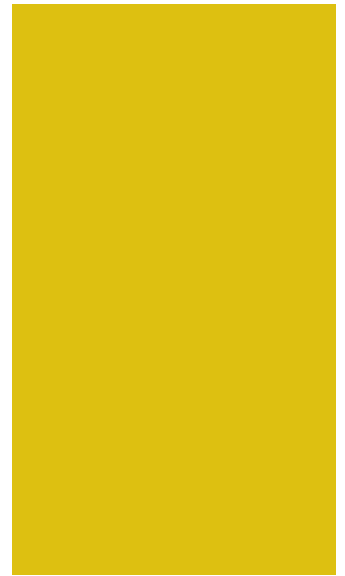
*Planned Learning:* To develop Literacy skills.

*Activity:* Primary 3 children were taken on a nature walk through the surrounding area. They made a 'Journey Stick' by collecting items at different points and sticking them onto their journey stick.

*Resources:* The journey sticks were long strips of cardboard with double sided tape.

*Impact:* The OL experience developed children's Literacy skills, particularly listening and talking, with each child's unique journey stick stimulating exciting pupil led discussions. This activity could also be used as a stimulus for writing activities in class.

*Teacher Comment:* At the end of the nature walk the children's journey sticks were all unique and the children had lots to talk about when they arrived back in class. They also learned about different types of leaves and plants, the consequences of littering and also learned about some mini beasts they spotted along the way.



"I had the best day ever."





# OUTDOOR CLASSROOM DAY



Outdoor Classroom Day is a global campaign to celebrate and inspire outdoor learning and play. On the day, thousands of schools around the world take lessons outdoors and prioritise playtime.

**It's easy to get involved and there is something everyone can do!**

Many establishments across North Lanarkshire have previously participated and we are encouraging you to participate even more this session.

If you're new to outdoor learning, why not use Outdoor Classroom Day to try it out? Or, if you're an outdoor learning pro, use the day to celebrate what you're doing already and inspire other teachers around the world to join in.

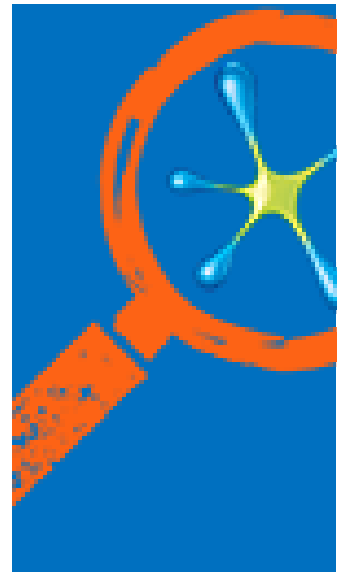
Further information is available here:

<https://outdoorclassroomday.org.uk/about/>

Diary Dates...

12<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2017

17<sup>th</sup> May 2018



# +OL @ Holy Cross Nursery Class

*Planned Learning:* To develop listening and talking skills by exploring the Science Es and Os focussing on forces and friction.

*Activity:* Children were invited to explore sliding and rolling using the materials provided and encouraged to investigate what difference adding water made through effective questioning.

*Resources:* Water tray/puddle, guttering, cups, balls and natural materials. All contained in the outdoor loose parts boxes which the children can access independently.

*Impact:* Children were fully engaged in learning and curious about 'What happens when ....?' They led their own learning by adding different gradients with the guttering and revisiting the activity over a number of days. This activity supports the development of language by analysing and describing the cause and effect.

*Teacher Comment:* As some children had only started nursery this was their first opportunity to play in this area. It was important to make learning fun and enable children to extend play with their own ideas.



"Playing with ramps and pipes and making things go super fast. Some got stuck because there was no water on them to make them slide down."







# Photo Competition

We are looking for your help to create an outdoor learning logo and banner. The two winning entries will receive £200 to spend on Outdoor Learning resources and equipment. Teachers can enter either one or both competitions.

The **logo** should represent the 'OL' of Outdoor Learning. Though it is up to you how this is created. You could use children, natural materials or anything else you find outdoors.

The **banner** should clearly show children and young people engaged in an OL activity.

This competition provides you with an outdoor learning activity which could be linked to learning in Maths, Expressive Arts, Literacy and Health and Wellbeing.

**The competition will close on Friday 3rd November 2017.** Please ensure you have permission to enter from you HT. All entries must be photographs uploaded to the OL page on GLOW:

<https://glowscotland.sharepoint.com/sites/NorthLanarkshireCouncil/CIT/SitePages/Outdoor-Learning.aspx>







# OL @ Dunrobin Primary School

*Planned Learning:* To bundle Es and Os from Literacy, Numeracy, Science and Health and Wellbeing.

*Activity:* Grow, Cook, Eat! We planted vegetable seeds in our school garden in Spring. We prepared the soil for planting and followed the instructions on the seed packets to ensure they grew.

*Resources:* Seeds, compost, planters, gardening tools and gloves. Donations, sponsorship and funding could also help you to do this with your children.

*Impact:* By growing and tasting fresh, organic vegetables, we are developing an understanding of sustainability and the journey of food.

*Teacher Comment:* After harvesting the vegetables the children made a big pot of tasty soup. This helps them make connections between growing food and their own Health and Wellbeing.



“We chose the vegetables we wanted to grow potatoes, turnip, radish and pumpkin.”





## OL Conference

NLC are arranging an OL conference which will take place in April 2018.

If you have any suggestions or requirements for this please email Alexander Johnston

[johnstona2@northlan.gov.uk](mailto:johnstona2@northlan.gov.uk)

## Funding Opportunities

Local School Nature Grants Scheme

<https://tinyurl.com/yb83tkdr>

£500 worth of outdoor resources, and a two hour training session thanks to Postcode Local Trust.

Application cut off dates:

20<sup>th</sup> October 2017 and 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017

## OL Working Group:

Thanks to the members of the working group for their support and commitment:

Vicky Cole (Mossend PS), Robert Colquhoun (Brannock HS), Jacqueline Hagerty (St Patrick's PS, Coatbridge), Wendy Hall (Firpark School), David Hughes (Thornlie PS), Elizabeth Kerr (Holycross PS), Natalie MacDonald (Skills Academy), Einir MacDonald (Grenfaulds HS), Katie McElhinney (St Helen's PS), Jane Mitchell (Jigsaw FLC), Jacklyn Purdon (Ravenswood PS), Wendy Reid (Netherton PS), Sarah Reilly (Dunrobin PS), Kirsty Wright (Glenboig PS)