

Further Links online:

Curriculum for Excellence Outdoor Learning
Parent Factsheet (a good summary)

http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/publications/c/publication_tcm4660547.asp?strReferringChannel=parentzone&strReferringPageID=tcm:4-634353-64&class=l1+d140754

Links that provide more depth:

Curriculum for Excellence Experiences & Outcomes suitable for Outdoor Learning (these support planning and assessment)

www.educationscotland.gov.uk/learningteachingandassessment/approaches/outdoorlearning/about/experiencesandoutcomes

HMIe Link Inspector's video on Outdoor Learning in the Curriculum for Excellence

http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/video/g/video_tcm4596975.asp?strReferringChannel=educationscotland&strReferringPageID=tcm:4-615801-64

Minister for Skills & Lifelong Learning's video on Outdoor Learning in schools

http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/video/k/video_tcm4590004.asp?strReferringChannel=educationscotland&strReferringPageID=tcm:4-615801-64

**“There is no such thing as
bad weather, only bad
clothing.”**

Scandinavian proverb

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Viewlands Primary School

“Grow through Learning”

Outdoor Learning

What is Outdoor Learning?

Outdoor learning is an approach to learning rather than a subject. It provides a real life way for teachers to help pupils make links between the real world and their classroom learning.

Outdoor Learning is not a new approach at Viewlands. Pupils already participate in free and structured play activities outdoors, visits to parks and farms as well as extended residential trips. The Nursery garden is well used for both spontaneous and planned outdoor activities, both of which are important in the totality of the child's experience.

During Session 13/14 we are taking forward our development of outdoor learning by offering regular, planned experiences for children from P3-6 led by Mrs Drummond. She has experience and training in leading outdoor learning.

For details of her previous work please follow this link:

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/sharingpractice/f/forestschoolsmaths/introduction.asp>

Kit list for Outdoor Learning

- At least 2 layers of warm clothes.
- Stout shoes/boots or wellies with socks.
- Waterproof jacket & waterproof trousers.
- Hat, neck warmer and gloves/mittens.
- **Full** school uniform to change back into.



How will it work?

Classes from P3-P5 will have a regularly timetabled outdoor learning experience on a Thursday with Mrs Drummond. P6OD will be outside for an extended outdoor learning experience on a Friday morning. The focus of teaching will be both in discrete subject areas as well as interdisciplinary learning. The children will use the grounds of the shared campus.

How can parents support Outdoor Learning?

Being enthusiastic about being outdoors is one of the most valuable ways parents can help their child. In order to fully participate and truly enjoy being outdoors, we would request that your child brings outdoor clothes and stout footwear to school. We would suggest that lots of warm layers of clothes as well as a waterproof jacket and waterproof trousers are best. Children would also benefit from hats, neck warmer and gloves. We would ask that jeans and scarves are not worn. If wellies are worn, please ensure your child has warm, cosy wellie style socks. We would greatly appreciate any donations of suitable clothing in case any pupil forgets their kit.

“Risk is essential. There is no growth or inspiration in staying within what is safe and comfortable.”

Alex Noble

Why teach outdoors?

There is now a substantial base of national and international evidence about the benefits of taking learning outdoors. The impact of outdoor learning on children's health and wellbeing, wider achievements, attainment and personal development is positive and meaningful.

Benefits may include:

- Connections are made experientially with the real world outside the classroom, helping to develop skills, knowledge and understanding.
- Outdoor environments and surroundings act as a rich stimulus for creative thinking and learning. This affords opportunities for challenge, enquiry, critical thinking and reflections.
- Children are able to understand the relevance of a subject taught in school to everyday life.
- Learning in a less structured environment can provide a different learning experience than that of the classroom.
- Children can sometimes behave differently outdoors. Quiet pupils may speak more, others may be calmer and more focused when outside, especially in a natural space.