



West Sussex County Council Thomas A' Becket Infant School

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Forest School and Eco School News

The story so far...



This year at Thomas A' Becket Infant School we have worked hard to enable all the children to have access to the outdoors on a regular basis. We have developed our outdoor learning spaces to enable the children to play and learn with natural materials and experience the seasonal changes.

Thanks to money raised by FABS we have been able to start setting up the Enchanted Garden so classes can effectively use the space for Eco School learning. Eco School has successfully run alongside Forest School, which has given the children the opportunity to connect with and have access to, the natural world. Despite the many challenges of this year, we have achieved our 'Silver Eco Schools Award', as a result of the hard work and learning across the whole school. Next year we will be working towards our 'Green Flag Eco Schools Award'!



Forest School now has several new spaces including a hide for the children to observe wildlife, a hammock to relax in and enjoy the world around them.



The class gardens have been an enormous success due to the hard work of the individual classes and the kind donations from our school community. The children have enjoyed watching the plants grow and observing the many different creatures that have also benefitted from the amazing spaces.



Healthy Schools

In September, we will continue developing our school grounds and the children will help create their class garden in their new classroom space. We are also hoping to plant and grow more fruit and vegetables as part of the 'Healthy Living' topic in Eco Schools. The children will be actively involved in choosing some of the things they would like to grow and then caring for them.



We have created a new wild corridor, which links Forest School and our Eco School environment. We have already begun developing this wooded space with the introduction of the low ropes. This helps the children develop their core muscles, as well as encouraging perseverance and resilience. Next year, we will be aiming to add more to this space to further enrich the children's learning experiences.



As part of the Eco Schools topic of 'Biodiversity', the children have had the amazing opportunity to watch a family of foxes grow thanks to the 'Wildlife Cam' and Mr Ray. We have also been watching the squirrels enjoy their new feeding station. The Year One classes have created their own 'Bug Hotels' which they have used to observe the different minibeasts within our school grounds. Next year, we are hoping to introduce bird boxes and more bird feeders.



As part of our wellbeing and enrichment learning, we will be introducing ducks into the school. The ducks will be playing many different roles from supporting the children with their learning; to caring for animals and the world around us; to wellbeing and mindfulness. The children will be able to read to the ducks too, just like the Reading Dogs.