

EYFS

Outdoor Learning at a Glance

Early Years Foundation Stage

Our youngest children spend time outdoors every week, using the canal towpath, our outdoor environment and forest school area to explore, play and learn through all their senses. Here is a flavour of what your child will experience this year.

Grow *Children grow too: in confidence, teamwork and resilience*

- Planting bulbs, seeds and young plants, and watching them grow
- Looking after plants and learning what they need
- Picking, tasting and sharing food we have grown
- Simple picnics and snacks made with homegrown produce

Explore *Discovering our canal, our outdoor environment and our local community*

- Nature walks and hunts for minibeasts and treasures
- Visiting the canal and spotting the plants and animals that live there
- Listening for sounds and wildlife around us
- Building dens and playing with mud, sticks and leaves
- Acting out favourite stories outdoors
- Visits within our local community, and learning to stay safe

Achieve *Making, creating and celebrating what we learn*

- Making art and models from natural materials
- Creating homes for creatures and observing them
- Obstacle courses and team games
- Taking part in whole-school and community events

Our outdoor learning follows the seasons and the weather, so experiences may vary from year to year. Children do not enter the water at the canal; we explore it safely from the towpath.



Year 1

Outdoor Learning at a Glance

Key Stage 1

Year 1 children build on their early outdoor experiences, getting to know the canal, our outdoor environment and forest school area through the seasons. Here is a flavour of what your child will experience this year.

Grow *Children grow too: in confidence, teamwork and resilience*

- Planting bulbs and seeds and noticing how they change
- Looking after growing plants through the seasons
- Harvesting and tasting vegetables we have grown

Explore *Discovering our canal, our outdoor environment and our local community*

- Nature walks and sound walks, including along the canal
- Hunting for minibests and getting to know our trees
- A trip on the canal
- Noticing how the outdoors changes through the year
- Meeting people who care for our canal and local area

Achieve *Making, creating and celebrating what we learn*

- Drawing and photographing our outdoor environment through the seasons
- Creating displays and artwork inspired by nature
- Joining in whole-school and community events

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Year 2

Outdoor Learning at a Glance

Key Stage 1

Year 2 children start to look more closely at the world around them, from the plants growing in our grounds to the wildlife and people of the canal. Here is a flavour of what your child will experience this year.

Grow *Children grow too: in confidence, teamwork and resilience*

- Planting seeds and bulbs and recording how they grow
- Caring for our growing spaces
- Planning and enjoying a picnic using food we have grown

Explore *Discovering our canal, our outdoor environment and our local community*

- Walking along the canal and learning to read a simple map
- Discovering the plants and animals of the canal
- Meeting people who look after and live on the canal
- Learning outdoor skills and safety, with help from older children
- Listening to the sounds of the outdoors

Achieve *Making, creating and celebrating what we learn*

- Making music inspired by the canal
- Creating posters and messages for our school community
- Photographing and drawing the canal through the seasons
- Joining in whole-school and community events

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Year 3

Outdoor Learning at a Glance

Lower Key Stage 2

Year 3 children take on more independence outdoors, growing and cooking food, exploring the canal and creating things for our school and community. Here is a flavour of what your child will experience this year.

Grow *Children grow too: in confidence, teamwork and resilience*

- Planting bulbs, salad crops and vegetables
- Harvesting and cooking food to share together
- Learning about what plants need to thrive

Explore *Discovering our canal, our outdoor environment and our local community*

- Canal walks and nature scavenger hunts
- Sensory challenges that help us get to know our trees
- Storytelling using natural and found materials
- Orienteering around our outdoor environment
- Simple outdoor cooking in our forest school area

Achieve *Making, creating and celebrating what we learn*

- Drawing the plants and animals of the canal
- Making outdoor art from natural materials
- Creating pieces for the community, such as our scarecrow trail
- Joining in whole-school events

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Year 4

Outdoor Learning at a Glance

Lower Key Stage 2

Year 4 children investigate nature more closely, from surveying canal wildlife to foraging, cooking and building. Here is a flavour of what your child will experience this year.

Grow *Children grow too: in confidence, teamwork and resilience*

- Planting seeds, bulbs and vegetables
- Growing food, then cooking and enjoying it
- Learning how plants grow and what helps them thrive

Explore *Discovering our canal, our outdoor environment and our local community*

- Surveying plants and trees along the canal
- Finding out how living things on the canal depend on each other
- Taking part in a national bird watch
- Foraging for wild fruit and cooking with it
- Orienteering challenges
- Outdoor cooking in our forest school area

Achieve *Making, creating and celebrating what we learn*

- Sketching and designing inspired by canal boats
- Building and testing small boats and rafts
- Creating sculptures from natural materials
- Making things for the community, such as our scarecrow trail

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Year 5

Outdoor Learning at a Glance

Upper Key Stage 2

Year 5 children use the outdoors for real investigations and challenges, from monitoring the canal through the year to designing activities for younger children. Here is a flavour of what your child will experience this year.

Grow *Children grow too: in confidence, teamwork and resilience*

- Planting bulbs, vegetables, herbs and salad crops
- Cooking and eating what we grow
- Turning garden waste and autumn leaves into compost

Explore *Discovering our canal, our outdoor environment and our local community*

- Mapping a section of the canal
- Monitoring the canal through the year and recording what we find
- Exploring how wildlife on the canal is connected
- Foraging and cooking outdoors
- Designing orienteering courses for younger classes

Achieve *Making, creating and celebrating what we learn*

- Making natural paints and creating art with them
- Designing, building and testing outdoor shelters
- Making things for the community, such as our scarecrow trail

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Year 6

Outdoor Learning at a Glance

Upper Key Stage 2

Year 6 children become leaders of our outdoor curriculum, planning, teaching and caring for our school and local community. Here is a flavour of what your child will experience this year.

Grow *Children grow too: in confidence, teamwork and resilience*

- Researching and planning what to plant and where
- Growing, harvesting and cooking food to share
- Looking after our growing spaces

Explore *Discovering our canal, our outdoor environment and our local community*

- Visiting the canal to study its wildlife and learn how to stay safe near water
- Gathering and graphing weather information
- Taking care of our environment, including a litter pick
- Designing orienteering courses for younger children
- Teaching younger children outdoor skills

Achieve *Making, creating and celebrating what we learn*

- Creating safety posters for our school community
- Making willow and clay creations in our forest school area
- Making cards, crafts and displays for community events
- Sketching boats and the canal scene
- Joining in whole-school events

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