



Outdoor learning at Middle Barton School

We are so lucky to have our wonderful and unique outdoor spaces at Middle Barton School. Each of our classes get the opportunity to engage in outdoor lessons - most of them on a weekly basis. We also run an after school eco club for KS2 children with a passion for the environment.

Keystage 1

Acorns

Acorn class enjoy a weekly session of outdoor learning. We use all the outside areas, including the Forest School site and the eco classroom. Over the year the Acorns learn to change themselves into weather-appropriate clothing, suited to whatever our outdoor activity may be. We do a range of activities, some more structured to link directly to our curriculum and some following the children's own interest areas.

Building a Sukkah shelter linked to our finding out about Jewish celebrations in RE

Harvesting vegetables from the school garden - and making chips!



Sycamores

Sycamore class take part in a weekly Forest School session over a whole school year. We use our on-site area that has been developed specifically for this purpose. In these sessions the children are immersed in the outdoors - whatever the weather! Much of Forest School is child led and the adults often follow ideas that the children want to develop. As well as these child led experiences, the children will also learn basic knots, fire safety and working with basic tools. The Forest School programme runs through a year so that the children gain an understanding of flora and fauna in each season.



Keystage 2

Maples

Maple class take their learning outside on a Tuesday morning. We have linked this to Science, Geography and History.





Beech

Mummifying fruit as part of their Egyptians topic for History:



Making models of a waterfall during a geography lesson:



Willows

Willow class use Wednesday afternoons for their outdoor learning time. They use the eco classroom for many of their science investigations. Some of the sessions have been quite messy!

We also try and have our PSHE outside, under the shade of the beech tree is our favourite place for sharing and talking about issues that are relevant to us.

Oaks

Oak class has an exciting project underway. Thanks to a donation from ENCON, we can finally create a bigger pond in the eco area. We have an existing small pond that provides us with a host of species to observe - including frogs and newts! It is a very valuable resource, but the old plastic liner is cracked and brittle and the size of it is limiting for whole group learning opportunities.

As you can see, the digging out is well underway. The next job will be to line the pond, so watch this space...



Eco club

Eco club runs after school on Thursdays. We enjoy learning about environmental issues and taking direct action to help the school environment. We have run recycling campaigns and encouraged everyone to turn off lights, computers and taps - when not in use!

We have made bird boxes, bird tables, bat boxes and hedgehog homes. These have been placed around the school site - or in areas around the village. We are lucky to have Dave Jackson helping every week, a local volunteer, who shares his woodworking expertise with us.

