NAVIGATING THE WILD PROJECT

Outdoor Learning Project | 16th–27th June 2025

We are excited to share that all children will be taking part in a special two-week outdoor learning experience: **Navigating the Wild.** This project has been created to support children's physical and emotional wellbeing, encourage teamwork and give them space to explore, imagine and enjoy being outdoors.

Rooted in five key areas – ***Play, Exploration, Wellbeing, Belonging and Expression*** – the activities are designed to enrich learning and give children the chance to connect with nature, with each other and with themselves.



Strand	Why it Matters:	What this Develops:
Play: *Letting Imagination Lead*	**Play is how children make sense of the world. Outdoors, it becomes more physical, imaginative and free-flowing.** During Navigating the Wild, children might create a mud kitchen café, act out woodland stories in role play, or become pirates on a forest quest. They'll build dens for forest creatures, invent magical potions using herbs and petals and use natural materials to make puppet theatres or board games.	*Imagination, physical strength, confidence, creativity, communication and risk awareness*
Exploration: *Curiosity in the Wild*	**Exploration builds curiosity and independence.** Children will be encouraged to investigate the world around them — asking questions, noticing patterns and following their interests. They might go on a mini beast hunt, compare different leaves, trace shadows across the playground or measure tree trunks with string.	*Critical thinking, curiosity, focus, independence, a love for the natural world*
Wellbeing: *Calm, Space and Connection*	**Nature has a calming effect that supports mental and emotional wellbeing.** Children will have opportunities to slow down and reflect, whether it's through nature yoga or taking part in a leaf-breathing mindfulness activity. They may explore their emotions using feelings stones or create gratitude trees with things they're thankful for.	*Emotional literacy, mindfulness, self-regulation, calm routines and positive mental health habits*
Belonging: *Working Together in Nature*	**When children feel part of a group, they're more confident to join in and try new things.** Throughout the project, children will work together in all sorts of ways — from building group dens and bug hotels to creating shared nature totems and kindness trails. They might sit in regular outdoor circles for chats and stories, make nature bracelets to show their team spirit or design a group flag to mark their forest "base".	*Teamwork, communication, empathy, responsibility, connection to community and place*
Expression: *Finding Your Voice Outdoors*	**Outdoor learning offers children the freedom to express themselves in new and exciting ways.** During Navigating the Wild, children might paint with petals, create nature sculptures or design characters out of sticks and clay. They may act out forest plays, draw feelings in their sketchbooks or take part in a group storytelling circle under the trees.	*Confidence, self-awareness, creativity, language and emotional expression*