



Outdoor Learning Newsletter

Autumn 2022



We fully embrace the vision stated in the Church of England's Vision for Education 'Deeply Christian Serving the Common Good' published in July 2016 of educating the whole person. We aim for our children and members of the wider school community to flourish in all they do and **'live life in all its fullness'**. (John 10:10)

At Nutfield Church school we are proud to have constructed a curriculum that is ambitious and designed to give all pupils the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life. One afternoon a week is dedicated to Wellbeing. During Wellbeing afternoons, children are taught Wellbeing Theory; P4C (Philosophy for children) and PSHE on a three-week rotation. In addition, the children also have an hour of PE during their Wellbeing afternoon. Wellbeing+ sits at the core of the Wellbeing Strand. Wellbeing + is a skills-based curriculum, whereby knowledge and skills and skills are acquired by doing. Children apply what they are learning in Wellbeing Theory lessons to real-life scenarios, which helps them to fully grasp the subject and its application as well as developing the skills they will need as adults. The abundance of land at Nutfield Church Primary School allows our children to have frequent and progressive experience in the school grounds. During their Wellbeing+ lessons children have the opportunity to actively engage in hands-on activities such as animal husbandry, animal conservation and gardening. It is widely recognised that outdoor learning is a powerful tool that is proven to raise attainment, bolster social, emotional and personal development and contribute to the mental health of our children, which is why s

Chickens: Year 1

As part of the Wellbeing+ Curriculum , Year 1 are responsible for looking after the chickens each morning and attending to all their needs. This term the children in Year 1 have been thinking about what the chickens need to stay healthy and happy and that chickens have needs just like humans. They have also been learning lots of interesting facts about chickens for example the chicken is a living descendent of a dinosaur!

In their Wellbeing Theory lessons, the children created some portrait paintings of the chickens. They spent time observing and carefully sketching them. They thought about all the different features, and textures. Chickens, as the children discovered, are quite challenging to draw but they made some great attempts!



Chickens : Year 5

This term we have a new set of chicken keepers. The current Year 5 class have embraced their responsibilities of looking after our four chickens. As part of their Wellbeing + learning a daily rota has been put in place for children to take it turns to look after the chickens. It is the responsibility of Year 5 to tidy the chicken coop and run, and to date stamp the eggs. Once a week the whole class help to rotate the chicken coop (which is on wheels) to ensure that the chickens have access to enough grass. In addition to these duties, the children in Year 5 are also responsible for running the Nutfield Church Market stall which is 'open' every Monday and Thursday on the school playground at 3.15.

As part of their Wellbeing Theory lessons, Year 5 have been learning all about eggs. Children were asked to research the following questions about eggs and share their answers with the class:

What is an egg?

Which animals lay eggs?

When do chickens lay eggs?

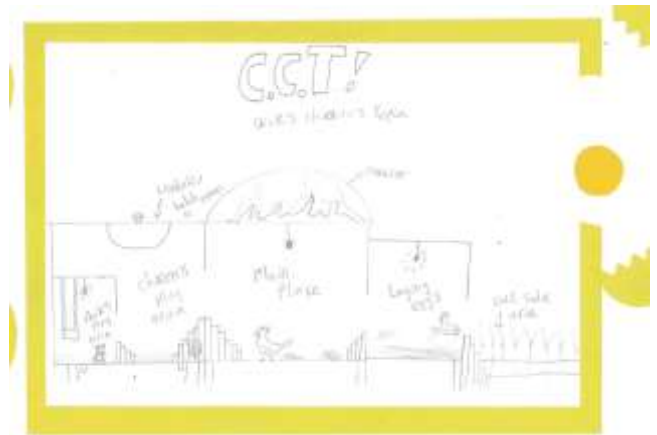
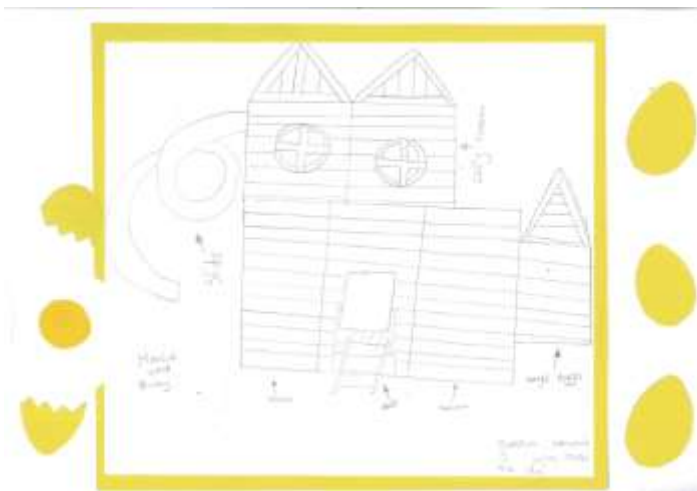
How often do chickens lay eggs?

How do we know an egg is edible ?

How long can you keep an egg for?



The children then went on to look at the difference between free range eggs and battery farm eggs. The children used this information to create their own chicken coops taking in consideration what they had learnt about animal welfare.



Nutfield Church Market Stall

On Mondays and Thursdays at 3.15 pm there will be a market stall with freshly laid eggs from our chickens. The chickens lay four eggs a day our collected every morning by the children in Year 1. Children in Year 5 date stamp the eggs and prepare the market stall. There is an honesty box for donations. All money raised will go towards the upkeep of Trinity Farm.

Trinity Gardens: Year 2

Year 2: Trinity Farm

Over the first half of the Autumn Term, the children in Year 2 have been out in small groups every week weeding and composting the plots in both the Kitchen Garden and Trinity Gardens. Unfortunately, due to the unprecedented weather over the summer holidays, the broccoli and potatoes planted by the previous Year 2 children didn't yield much of a crop. However, we did have an abundance of apples, tomatoes, runner beans and even a pumpkin, which the children have enjoyed harvesting and selling in our weekly Farmers' Market. We were very proud with what we had achieved!

Thank you to all the Year 2 parents who are supporting Trinity Gardens by providing your children with wellies, gardening equipment and gardening gloves. This is very much appreciated.



Peter Rabbit

The Reception children are thoroughly enjoying their first term looking after Peter Rabbit. They visit Peter every morning and refresh his food and water. Peter particularly enjoys kale and carrots and looks forward to seeing what the children have brought him! The children have been learning why it is important to look after Peter and how looking after an animal can also benefit them too.

"Playing with Peter makes me feel happy and calm." (Jake)

"Peter needs food and water everyday so he can stay healthy" (Ayah)

"God created Peter, so we must look after him" (Niamh)



Year 3: The Wildlife Area

Every week, as part of the children's Wellbeing+ lessons, small groups of children from Year 3 have been visiting the wildlife area. As part of their visit they spend time in the bird hide and record the bird activity in the school grounds. Part of this role also involves refreshing our two bird feeders with seeds and fat balls. This year the children are also trying to encourage hedgehogs into the school grounds and during their Wellbeing + lessons children have also been finding and preparing suitable sites for the two hedgehog homes in the wildlife area. These hedgehog homes were kindly purchased for the school by Redhill and Reigate Rotary Club.



Hedgehog release programme

In Wellbeing Theory lessons Year 3 children were asked to research local hedgehog sanctuaries. Children wrote letters to the sanctuaries enquiring as to whether any hedgehogs needed re-homing and explained the provision that Year 3 had put in place for the hedgehogs at Nutfield Church Primary School. During their conservation talk by Wildlife Aid, the children were told that each year Wildlife Aid takes in many young hedgehogs, who are raised to adulthood at their centre, as well as taking in sick and injured adult hogs all year round. Once fully grown, fit and healthy, these hedgehogs need to be released back into the wild.



The children were particularly excited and motivated to get involved with this initiative.

To help the children understand more about wildlife conservation, especially hedgehog conservation Douglas, a representative from the charity Wildlife Aid came and spoke to the children about the Wildlife Aid Foundation, the animals they rescued and some information about hedgehogs (what they eat and how to help protect them). Douglas explained to the children that through Wildlife Aid's foundation iDot initiative (meaning "I Do One Thing") they can do one thing each day to help protect wildlife. British nature is currently in a crisis. 1 in 7 species of plant and animal face extinction, and over half the country's wildlife species are in decline. This is largely due to the high population density of the UK and the associated urbanisation. The extent of our urbanisation has left the UK as one of the most nature-depleted countries on earth, with over 40% of natural habitats at risk of being lost. However, the children learnt that thanks to conservation efforts across the country, progress is being made on several fronts to help restore habitats and protect wildlife.



What should I do if I find a hedgehog in my garden?

Once the weather starts getting colder, and the temperature regularly drops below 5°C at night, hedgehogs will start to obey the instinct to hibernate. To successfully survive hibernation, a hog must have sufficient body fat.

Try to weigh the hog, if you can. Use kitchen scales and pick the hog up with oven/gardening gloves or in a towel.

If the hog is under 600g then it must get to a local wildlife centre.

If the hog is over 600g, then it should be fine, unless it is out in the daytime. Being out in the daytime is usually a sign that something is wrong, so, please, call us for advice. It may be that it is just gathering nesting materials, so we may need to ask you more questions.

If it is not out in the daytime and is over 600g, then there is no need to intervene. The hog will find the best place to hibernate and, provided your garden has suitable areas where it can do this, then it will be fine. Moving them while they are actually hibernating or about to hibernate is not a good idea, as their bodies become accustomed to the temperature in the spot they have chosen. Moving them would upset and stress them, so, as long as they are free to roam, they will sort this out for themselves.

Hedgehogs follow a pattern of hibernation techniques that have not changed for centuries. Any time from November onwards (mainly after Christmas), fit mature hedgehogs will construct a hibernaculum (a hibernation nest), where they will, more or less, stay until March.

During the early stages of hibernation, or if the weather changes and become particularly mild, hedgehogs may still wake, occasionally, and come out of their nest to feed. As long as they are over 600g, you can offer a bowl of good quality tinned meat (dog or cat food), along with fresh water (never milk!). During very cold spells, they may not come out at all, but if they are seen during milder spells, it is a good idea to offer some supplementary feeding to help them along.

Remember!

Hedgehogs can sleep inside sheds, garages, bags of rubbish, etc. Please, check before clearing out these areas that there are no sleeping hedgehogs inside.

iDot

iDot – which stands for I Do One Thing – aims to encourage a gradual, sustained, behavioural change throughout the population.

Here are a few wildlife friendly iDots you can do today:

1. Plant wildflowers (honeysuckle, oxeye daisy, primrose, etc.) to help pollinators.
2. Create hedgehog highways (holes in fences for hedgehogs to pass through).
3. Provide feeding stations for wildlife—foxes, hedgehogs, birds etc.
4. Don't use slug pellets or rodent poisons—wildlife gets caught in the crossfire.
5. Give wildlife a home—bird and bat boxes, hedgehog houses, leaf piles.
6. Drive slowly, especially country roads and during the darker winter months.
7. Always check bonfires and leaf piles before disposing of them in case it has become a home for a wild animal.



Bug Hotel: Year 4

So, what is a bug hotel, we hear you ask? A bug hotel is a structure, that's usually made of natural materials, built in an outdoor space to attract minibeasts and insects to shelter in. Bug hotels can come in all shapes and sizes, be created using a variety of eco-friendly materials, and can be called different names such as, 'Minibeast Hotels', 'Insect Houses', and 'Creature Palaces'. Bug hotels can be made all year round, but it's ideal to build one in autumn, as it gives our creepy crawly friends a nice, cosy place to hibernate for winter.

The Nutfield Church Bug Hotel is now under new ownership. Work and plans are well underway in Year 4 to rebuild and re-imagine the Bug Hotel. This term in their Wellbeing Theory lessons the children have spent time re-researching the different mini beasts they would like to attract in their hotel and the types of habitats they prefer.

Bug hotels bring boundless learning opportunities. Connecting with nature has been proven to lower stress hormones, relieve anxiety and promote concentration. It also provides an opportunity to develop gross and fine motor skills in ways that we may not be able to indoors. The actual building of a bug hotel is great for all our budding artists, as every bug hotel can be as unique as you. There are so many forms and shapes and sizes that it can take; all you need is a patch of flat ground, natural materials, and a little imagination! It is also be a great way for children to bond and work together, developing their teamwork and negotiation skills. It helps children to understand natural processes, introduce them to concepts about the environment, and what we can do to protect it. Caring about our creepy crawly friends fosters empathy, and lays the foundations of environmental awareness.



During the summer term we welcomed the arrival of our two female guinea pigs. A competition was held to find their names and Charlotte and Daisy were the winning choices. Every day the children in Year 6 tend to the guinea pigs. Daily tasks include refreshing the water, hay and vegetables and handling the guinea pigs. Weekly tasks include changing the bedding, cleaning out the hutch and giving the guinea pigs a health check. During their health check the children observe the guinea pig's teeth, eyes, nose, ears and mouths and check that they all look healthy and there are no obvious signs of infection. The children also trim the guinea pigs nails.

Guinea pig likes to escape the fear of being eaten, most of healthy guinea pig has bright alert eyes with a sign of cleanliness or witness need. They should have clean nose and ears.

Guinea pig originates from South America, particularly the Andes. The guinea pig are the best domestic guinea pig that serves as daily pet. Little guinea pig need in their daily life: a suitable living area, hay for bedding and food, stainless steel bowls for good water bottles, tunnels, shelters and exercise tin. They need a well balanced diet of grass, hay, green vegetables and guinea pig pellets, as well as access to clean drinking water.



Benefits of having pets

If you have a pet at home it might be more useful than you think. From the smallest to the largest, from the slowest to the fastest, from the oldest to the youngest, your pets can help you.

Health

From a health perspective, any pet can help you lower your blood pressure... some can give you exercise, they can even give you an extra 30% of not having asthma, especially if you have a cat. They can also help if you have any disabilities and other ailments that you may have. Finally, your pets can sometimes sense if you're diabetic and if you need help because your sugar levels have gone low. This can also train dogs to get help from others.

Mood

Did you know that your child will be less self-centred if they grow up with a pet? Pets also reduce anxiety and stress levels.

Other Abilities

Most pets have always been very loyal to their owners. They can also be quite protective, their owners can help you.

Orla Barwick and Cassie Robinson Year 8

[illegible]

Over the summer construction of Trinity Farm took place. The area has been neatly fenced off and is accessed by two latch gates. In the middle of the farm sits three Dutch barns on concrete bases. Two of the barns are housing Peter Rabbit and the guinea pigs, Daisy and Charlotte. They animals have a zippi tunnel which is connects their hutch to their outside runs. The third barn will store the animals food and all the essential equipment we need to look after the animals. Within the fenced area sits the chicken coop as well as the six raised gardening beds and our apple tree. We are blessed to have such a wonderful space for our children to come and learn about animal husbandry, wildlife conservation and gardening in their Wellbeing + lessons.



RHS Gardening Award

A huge congratulations to Mrs Matthews, Eco Team and Year 2 who have worked collectively to achieve the RHS Level 4 Schools' Gardening Award. In order to achieve level 4 we had to show that:

- We can use tools like a professional gardener to dig, rake and sow
- We know how to protect our plants against the weather, pests and diseases
- We can plan seasonally to harvest produce throughout the year
- We know how to use the produce from our garden
- We raise funds to buy seeds, plants and equipment for our garden



On achieving the award the school was also gifted with a Super Seed Bundle of Mr Fothergill's seeds worth over £100, which will allow us to keep planting all year round!

Volunteering and Fundraising

Volunteers – we need you!

As you know, we are actively developing our Wellbeing curriculum as we focus on providing an outstanding Quality of Education for all children and the animals are a bold step towards that. The success of our outdoor learning curriculum is very much dependent on the generosity of our parents. We already have a thriving volunteer programme who help care for our animals at weekends and during the holidays. We are always looking for new volunteers, so if you think this is something you would like to be involved in, please contact the school office: info@nutfield.surrey.sch.uk

Donations

If you are unable to come into school at weekends or during the holidays there are other ways you can help. We have set up a tab on Sco-Pay and are asking parents and carers to donate £3 a month to help feed and care for our animals. Alternatively, attached to this newsletter is a list of essential items we need to care for our animals, just purchasing one of these items would help us to secure the future of our outdoor learning curriculum. These items are usually sourced from Pets at Home. Thank you so much in advance.

Welcome new volunteers

We would like to welcome the following farm volunteers:

The Poulton Family

The Jardine-Jones Family

The Rowe Family

The Carr Family

The Gunn Family

The Measures Family

The Ahmed Family

The Lea-Conrad Family

Thank you to Mr Abela, Mr Jones and Mr Salillari and Mrs King who helped Mr Kolndreu move the animals into their new homes this term. They also helped construct and put in place the zippi tunnels which will allow Peter, Daisy and Charlotte to run freely between their outdoor run and their indoor hutches. We are extremely grateful for their time and expertise.



Thank you to the Nicholson family who have donated a bale of straw and a bale of hay for our rabbits and guinea pigs. Our guinea pigs in particular eat an awful lot of hay so we are very grateful for the generous donation!



Chicken and Rabbit Shopping List



Adult rabbit pellets



Wood shavings



Meadow hay



Disinfectant spray



Gnawing toys



Layers Pellets



Verm-X Poultry Zest



Mite and lice powder



Mixed grit



Mixed corn