

Outdoor Learning Summary



Autumn 2022

Welcome

Nature is a key part of our community as it is where we live. It is integral to our community and can influence so many parts of our daily lives. Yet, it is the part that we often neglect to include or to look after. There are so many nature-based events that bring people together and ones that create new communities. This is something that we want to develop further at St Mary's. Simple activities can create a community that can change lives and boost well-being.

In school

Botanics

It has been a pleasure to take Year 9 students to the Botanics on Friday lunchtimes this term. The changing colours of the plants and the time in nature to talk and walk has been so valued at the end of a busy week. This will continue over the year.



COMMUNITY PRODUCE STALL



We have been very excited to see the continuation of our community produce stall. This is a stall to share our love of gardening and fresh produce with our community to avoid waste and to bring joy. There have been lots of apples and pears for crumbles as the nights draw in.

Students, staff and parents can pick up any produce from the stall and bring in produce at a later date if they can.

We also hope to reduce waste through this initiative and support each other with advice.

Gardening Club

This has continued every Thursday lunchtime with our wonderful gardeners Sarah and Philip. The students so far have been propagating and planting to have more plants around our school. We will be working towards developing our new sensory garden. The bird feeders are also being used a lot in the garden! A herb bed is also being introduced by the food technology room so that they have their ingredients ready to go!



Sensory Garden

We are so excited to be planning alongside Sarah and Philip (our wonderful gardeners) a sensory garden/experience. Ideas have been put forward to the eco committee and well being committee for its design. We will all work closely together to create a calming space for all our community that embraces all of our senses.



Eco Committee

The Eco Committee have been busy this term using the outdoor classroom to decorate glass jars for candles. It was lovely to see them outside. They are involved in ideas for the sensory garden and we look forward to working closely with them

Outdoor Learning Hub



We are so excited to have this new outdoor space in our Chapel Garden.. It is a multi-functional space that can be used in all pastoral and academic aspects of school life. The students have loved spending time in it providing a space for them away from technology providing an area of calm. It has continued to be used for a range of subjects and we hope to get some personalised training soon. Teaching resources are also being introduced there soon so this will support teaching staff in their planning.

Year 9 -Biophilic classrooms

After half term each year 9 form will be given £20 to start them off fundraising for plants for their form rooms. Fundraising last year involved selling sweets, popcorn, candy floss, coffee and hot chocolate as well as homemade candles, bath salts and jewellery. A representative from each form will be nominated to visit the garden centre and choose plants for their rooms. They will move on with them into their Year 10 form rooms.

