

Teaching Primary Science Outdoors

How is it going?

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What's going well?

Access to outdoor areas for all of Keystage 1.

More outdoor learning is happening than previously.

EYFS use outdoors really well.

Year 1 use it for season work and go to local woods etc.

Other year groups rarely take their class outside.

In EY lots of outdoor learning, extension of the indoor classroom.

Using the outdoors to teach 'living things and their habitats/animals including humans'

Gardening groups well established in school

Sensory garden used in school for different groups to work in
Other Science staff have led nature walks
Outdoor learning trail being set up with different subject areas being catered for

We have a range of outdoor environments- pond, woodland, field.

Good use of pond area, bug hotel, bird hide

Plenty of enrichment opportunities - we visited the farm last week.

Teachers are starting to look ahead at the yearly overview and pre-plan opportunities for outdoor learning

Using technology to capture outdoor learning

Ipads, data loggers, Digital microscope

What challenges do you face?

Sharing spaces and limited areas available due to bubbles

Not all Key stages are embracing opportunities for outdoor learning.

Limited outdoor spaces

Spaces. EYFS is great but we have a small 'wild' area at back of the playground and some plant pots and that's it

Covid restrictions - crossing bubbles

Most classes are one adult only so some classes with challenging behaviour are more reluctant to go outside for science

Linking the outdoors to other areas of the science curriculum

timetabling

Staff don't know how to take science outdoors unless it's plants

Field activities with direct links to the curriculum.

Staff worry about going outside as the children's concentration goes

Still no trips allowed where we are

lack of technology to record and capture outdoor learning

As it is relatively new, behaviour outdoors and pupil to adult ratio.

What questions do you have?

Teachers are not always confident in teaching science outdoors.

Where can I find more ideas for certain topics outside? e.g. electricity
