



**Tea & Topics, Outdoor Learning and Play  
Meeting Notes  
Wednesday, February 28th**

Forest school

- Teachers have spent a long time shadowing forest school leads, so feel confident to deliver this, although cannot call it 'forest school'
- This needs ongoing funding for official lead, doesn't work with fundraising
- Even for forest school, need lead, teacher, 2-3 volunteers
- Speak to the local community to see what options are available, especially Creative Roots who already use the space. Parents may fund
- KS2 could photograph more outdoor work, but quite restricted by curriculum

Mikes Meadow

Lunchtimes

- Kids only want to be out there when its warmer, less muddy!
- Need 5 volunteers because of the landscape, often injuries - exposed roots etc. One of the big issues is having no water up in MM. Having to take children back to the toilet
- Volunteer rota will be released soon for spring, term by term - potentially hand to parents for management. Rule that if you sign up & then cant attend you have to find a replacement?
- Idea to bring MM into the playground - connect with nature, offer different activities - digging - space for mud kitchen in larpa
- Do use year 6 pupils, but restrictions based on their learning - spring day soon
- Trial KS1 after school use on a Friday
- Discussed all weather gear, often children aren't equipped for all weathers and there is minimal space to store spares

Teaching

- Each class has a weekly slot, plan to take learning outside where they can - review every few weeks. Harder in KS2 when curriculum is so packed - have to do a certain amount of writing - Steam day soon, science is all about soil (Elm)
- Opportunity for raised beds in orchard - could set this up as a gardening club, few grandparents that would like to be involved

Playground / play space

- Request from children & agreement from teachers to zone astroturf to make it more inclusive - potential idea to use wicker animals to zone. Can create with children



- Need quieter spaces, SEN area (Nathans garden). There is a SEN area at Hope Nature Centre that could inspire us
- Need a review of space before zoning - how are children playing, are they decompressing or becoming amped up? How does play / break affect their learning?
- Huff, puff equipment - dressing up, circles, hoops - potentially need to hand management to Yr5
- Discussed OPAL and open ended play with rotation of different materials - old phones, cups, travelling with intent & purpose
- Climbing frames - part of review? Kids ideas - trampolines etc, include as part of play review. FOBs may be able to fund some small items

#### Village hall green

- Had access 15 years ago, look into how we can get the hole put back in - look into planning
- Church and hall open to us using the green
- Children would love the opportunity to play rugby - safe access is an issue. How could we make this safe? Lollipop person, volunteers, coaches

We also talked about pets in school - linking mental health benefits similar to being outdoors.

There are charities that just ask for donations to get well-trained, vetted dogs in school