



Outdoor  
Learning at St  
Columb Major  
ACE Academy



Share your most vivid childhood  
memory

# Why Learn Outdoors?

- Makes learning fun and memorable
- Excite and inspire learners
- Calm environment with space
- Constantly changing and varied learning environment
- Rich learning environment
- Use local environments
- Next generation understanding how to preserve their future environment
- Multi sensory
- Characteristics of effective learning
- Executive functioning – working memory, cognitive flexibility, self control
- Lack of outdoors for children now
- Fight against technology
- Active and fit – fight against health and obesity
- Life skills

# Forest School.

- We have a successfully run Forest School with skilled staff.
- Every child has the opportunity to attend forest school.
- Clearly defined ethos where children work in small groups and learn fire skills and to use tools.
- Children have the freedom to initiate their own learning.
- Our children particularly enjoy den building and learning new skills.
- Our Forest School leader carefully plans learning to link with the year groups curriculum and weaves in Maths, Literacy and Topic work.

# Outdoor Learning

- Not Forest School
- Teachers to take their whole class outdoors for their learning
- Creatively plan for learning outside of the classroom
- Any subject can be taught outdoors and keeps learning exciting and memorable

# Staff Training

- Staff questionnaires have been used to target training needed – what can be taught outdoors, ideas for teaching outdoors and future support in the planning process with the Eden Project.
- Resources have been purchased based on these results.

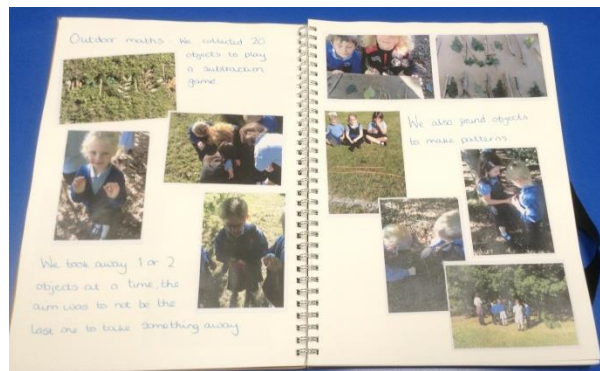
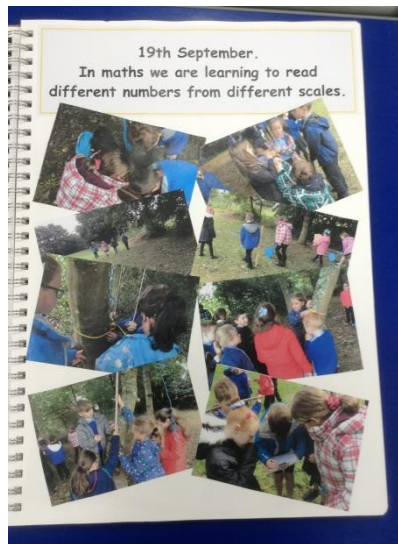


**eden project**

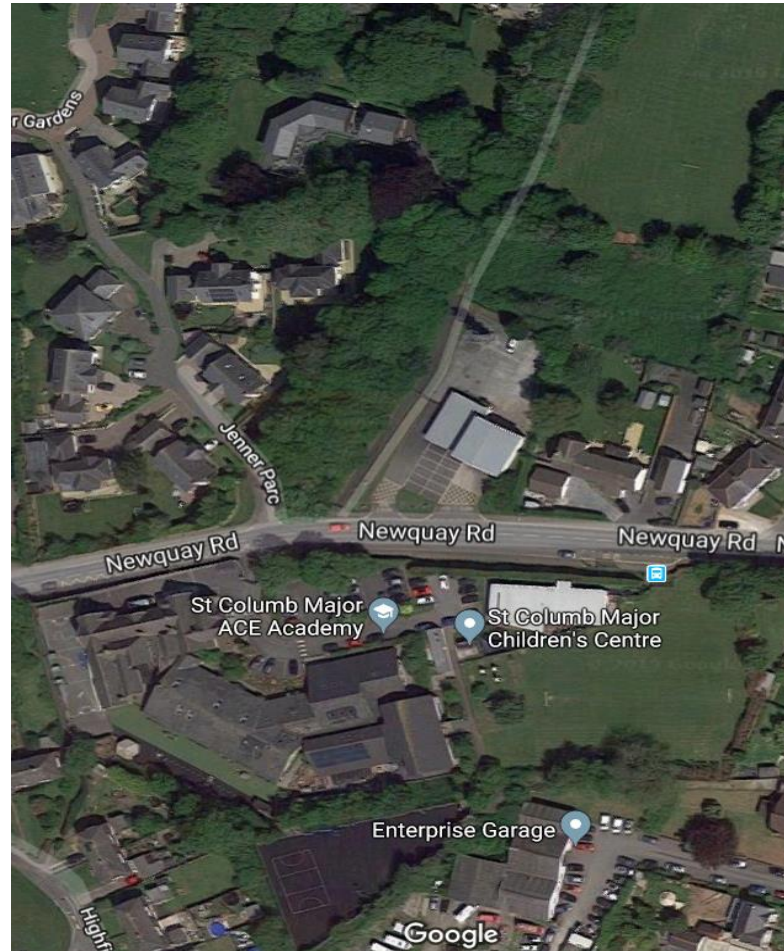




# Outdoor Learning is beginning to feature in all Year Groups



# Design for across the road





# The space we have at St Columb Major ACE Academy















# Ideas for Planning

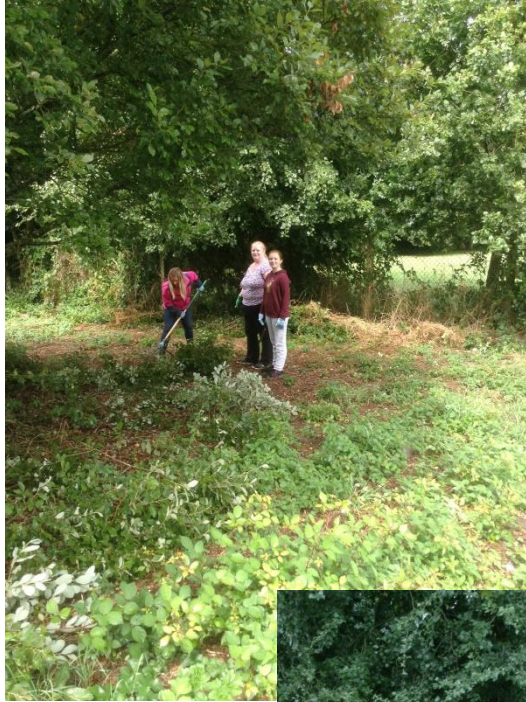
- Maths – all areas of Maths – mirrors, measuring, weighing, number and calculating, shape.
- Literacy – storytelling, instructions, poetry, hook for talk for writing.
- Geography – maps, compass work.
- History – historical cooking, den building, natural dyes, tools/weapons, fire lighting.
- Science – nature, plants, animals, materials
- Eco schools – bug homes, wildlife, grow your own veg.
- Art – observational drawings, Andy Goldsworthy, clay, rubbings, natural colours.
- PSED/Well being – team building, mindfulness, confidence etc.
- Teambuilding games and trust games.



# Progress so far





















# Designs for all of our Outdoor Spaces

**eden project**

- Degree students studying at Eden are designing our outdoor spaces as part of their course.
- I have gathered children's opinions from a survey as to what they want outdoors for learning and for relaxing and playtimes.
- The students have also consulted with all staff at the school. This includes problem areas, what areas are used for and what we want in the future.

# Support for the Future

- Moving forward we need to fundraise to pay for the new outdoor spaces.
- Support from the community for the outdoor learning site – shelter, planting willow etc.