

School Wildlife Pond

We are super excited to share with you the amazing news that we will be getting a school wildlife pond created in our school field.



Thanks to generous funding from Oxted Parish Council and Surrey County Council, we now have the money to build our very own wildlife pond and pond dipping platform, which will be a wonderful resource for our children and the local community.



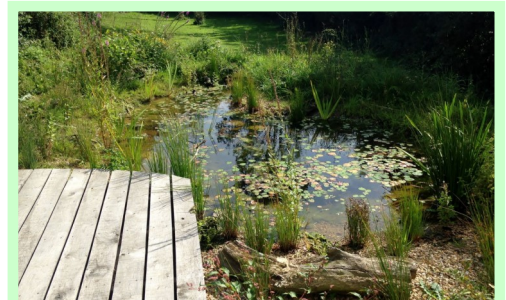
A recent [study](#) by the Wildlife Trust found the following educational, personal and social benefits to children being immersed in nature and outdoor learning:

- 90% of children felt they learned something new about the natural world
- 79% felt that their experience could help their school work
- After their activities, 84% of children felt that they were capable of doing new things when they tried
- 79% of children reported feeling more confident in themselves



*I can find newts and frogs—
Thomas, Year 2*

"No one will protect what they don't care about; and no one will care about what they have never experienced"— David Attenborough



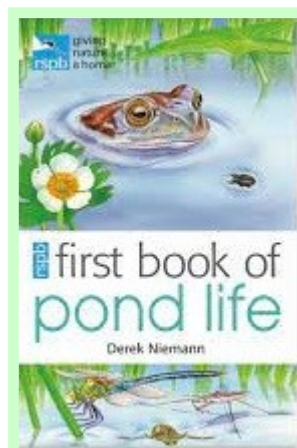
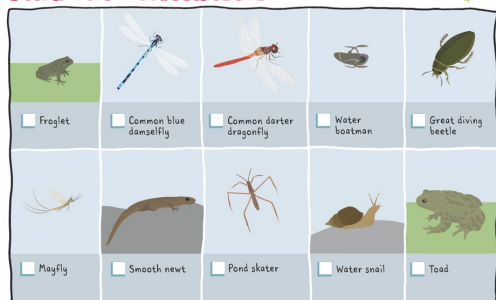
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Not only will our pond help improve local biodiversity by attracting and supporting wildlife, but it will have huge educational benefits too. Below are just some of the advantages a wildlife pond and participating in activities such as pond dipping will bring:

I'm really looking forward to exploring the pond and wildlife—
Ella, Reception

- Develops the child's eye for locating small and camouflaged pond organisms
- Fantastic language work for developing scientific, naturalist and environmental vocabulary
- Allows the child to connect with their local environment in a real way; not through books or screens
- Hands-on learning allows children to use their hands to touch and feel real organisms and environments, which enhances and extends the play and learning around classroom resources e.g. life cycle models and information books
- Greater knowledge of food chains and making connections between living things
- Can begin to categorise organisms such as herbivore, carnivore, omnivore, detritivore or invertebrate/vertebrate
- Sunshine, fresh air, lots of full body movement and strength building, balancing, and developing coordination
- Opportunity to learn about safety around bodies of water and how to protect themselves and others

Pond identification



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Work will start in May this year and we hope that children will be able to enjoy exploring the pond and its creatures come the Summer term.

The pond will have gently sloping sides and will be a maximum of one meter deep. It will be surrounded by a safety fence (with a locked gate) and all activities in and around the pond will be closely supervised by teaching staff at all times.

“The school’s vision to create a wildlife pond will greatly benefit the school community. Studies looking at childhood exposure to green spaces and nature show improved concentration and cognition as well as decreased aggression.

Spending time and connecting with nature can be positive for our mental health, give a sense of peace and boost self-esteem. This will benefit the wider school Community.” – Dr Anna Mustill, Oxted Health Centre



Miss Douglas and some of the children have created a lovely display all about our pond plans that Mrs George recently used to show our funders at Oxted Parish Council. If you’d like to come and have a look, please pop in to the office.

*We can look after the wildlife—
Bella, Year 1*

We look forward to keeping you updated and showing you our new pond over the coming months.

