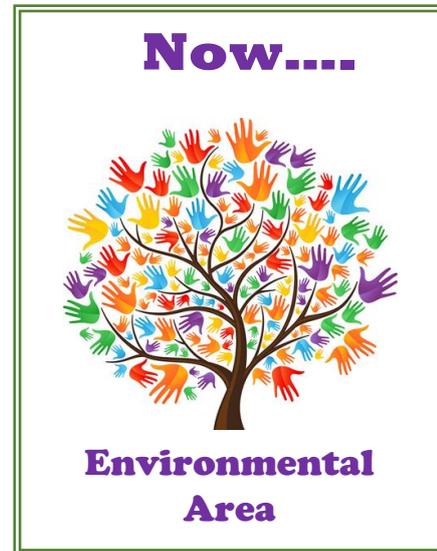




Introducing the..... **ENVIRONMENTAL AREA**



We are proud to report that the revamp of our exciting outdoor learning area was completed over the Summer holidays and is now in full use. This major project of re-modelling the old Forest School site into a now more widely-used Environmental Area was one of the largest schemes BPSCA has ever carried out costing nearly £10,000. Your support of our fundraising including winning us £2,000 from **Tesco Bags of Help** together with the £1,000 grant from **Persimmon Homes Community Champions**, has helped to deliver a fantastic new asset for the school and now we're inviting you to take a closer look...

We essentially rescued and vastly improved a much-loved part of the school grounds in order for it to be fully useable by teachers and children in more areas of the curriculum. The extensive work included:-



Despite the unseasonably wet Spring and record-breaking Summer temperatures, local **Arbour Landscapes** first tackled the build-up of years of invasive weeds before levelling the site, safely securing the area with new picket fences and lockable gates. They cleared the old wooden-decked pond area and re-sited and enlarged the all-important fire pit. They then laid new wood chip on the paths and sowed new meadow areas with wildflower seeds. They also built the fabulous new raised pond which is easier for the children to access and observe closely including the safely re-located frogs! The adjacent new rockery of geologically interesting stones has already been planted up and cared for by the children. The living willow den has been rejuvenated and the sandpit has received two tonnes of new play sand and an overnight animal-proof cover! The existing boundary fence was also repaired by Lawrence Wheeler and his hardworking team at Arbour.



Previous waterlogging problems were resolved by the installation of substantial new drainage and re-siting the old overgrown pond to better utilise the natural fall of the land – no doubt we are all too aware that we are lucky enough to be situated on top of a prominent hill but being on a steep slope has been particularly challenging for landscaping and ongoing maintenance of the site!



A local business using sustainable English timber, **Woodlouse Industries**, generously provided new log stool seating around the pit and firewood for the all-important toasting of marshmallows... Whilst working on site they discovered and carefully re-homed a rare insect larva. Max from the Sussex Stag Beetle Initiative group visited and worked with all the Year 1 children to learn about Stag Beetles and to build an environment that will encourage Stag Beetles and other minibeasts. Woodlouse also donated a superb new handcrafted workbench for the children to be able to do more woodwork, crafts, outdoor art and bush skills and refurbished the existing tables and stools. Parents Will and Gemma Wallace who run the company have been back at BPS since the start of the new academic year to rebuild the raised timber planters in Reception's ever-popular Vegetable Garden. We thank them for their enormous generosity to our projects!



The **Woodland Trust** donated 60 trees and hedging saplings. Plants have been supplied by **Cannons Nursery, Maidenhead Aquatics, Billingshurst Horticultural Society & Chestnut Tree House** and compost bins donated by parents **Stacey Skinner** and **James Letchford**.



Skidders Sheds kindly discounted one of their stores for tools and materials and huge thanks go to **Ian Thurston** and also to **Silvester Engineering** who helped prepare the slab base for the new store to be situated under the trees and near the worktables.



"The new Environmental Area is a wonderful resource for our now regular nature patrols and much more besides - Thank you BPSCA!" Mrs Footer, Head of KS1 Outdoor Learning

What Next?

We're still seeking a rainwater butt with tap and connector, bird feeders, nest boxes, bug homes, guttering, basic hand tools for the children to use, nails, screws, wood glue, goggles, waterproof backed picnic rugs, children's overalls/aprons, gloves, hooks and new signage for the gates. If you are able to contribute or know someone outside of our immediate school community who may be willing and able to support us on any of these items, please get in touch.

We will soon be holding a short official opening of the newly named Environmental Area and hope to see many of our supporters there.

In the meantime, the most important message that we want to convey to you all is

THANK YOU!



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