

St Columb Minor ACE Academy

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Headteacher: Nikki Cotterill



12th February 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

After February half term, our Foundation Stage children and staff will be embarking on a new project called 'Welly Wednesday'.

Every Wednesday, all of the children in Foundation Stage will be putting on their wellies and spending the morning learning outside. We will be using our new Bio Diversity area and the surrounding areas to facilitate this learning.

Each week, the learning will be tailored to meet the needs and interests of the children. The ethos of learning outside the classroom allows children the time and space to develop skills, interests and understanding through practical, hands on experiences. It also allows practitioners to step back and observe the children in order to then encourage and inspire individuals to achieve through careful scaffolding and facilitating.

Where will my child be going?

We are very fortunate to have a fantastic pond area and large school grounds, which includes our small woodland area. All areas are safe; they are thoroughly risk assessed and managed appropriately by school staff.

What will my child be doing?

Your child will be experiencing a wide variety of multi-sensory experiences within the natural environment. The sessions will run in all weather conditions (unless weather conditions are dangerous).

Possible activities may include:

- Using the outdoor as starting points for writing and story telling
- Project work that supports different curriculum areas
- Hunting for mini beasts
- Natural crafts – including making necklaces from elder, crowns or dream catchers from willow, collages from natural materials, weaving long grasses and making tree cookies
- Mud painting and sculptures
- Pond dipping
- Digging for a purpose
- Shelter building and knot tying
- Using tools for a purpose – such as chopping veg for snack time



The earlier weeks will concentrate on safety; establishing boundaries and routines. As the children develop in confidence and familiarity with the environment, the sessions will focus on the development and consolidation of skills and understanding.

Health & Safety

The health and safety of all participants is central to everything we do within our 'Welly Wednesdays'. Certain behaviours and boundaries are established first before the children move onto more 'high risk' activities, such as campfire cooking. Each week, the children will be encouraged and supported in recognising and managing risk for themselves, through real life situations and experiences.

What will my child need?

- A named pair of wellington boots
- A spare change of old clothes
- A coat

Extras if you can provide them:

- Wet weather clothes – all in one suit

It is important that all of the above is clearly labelled and in a named bag. You may wish to take the bag home every Wednesday afternoon to be washed.

As always, we fully welcome your support with this new project and if you would like to come along on a Wednesday to support, then please speak to your child's teacher.

We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 27th February.

Miss Begley, Miss Clarkson and Miss Smith
Foundation Stage Teachers