

MODBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL OUTDOOR PROJECTS

Background

The school has asked for support in developing projects to maximise the use of their outdoor space for play, to increase the children's appreciation of nature and improve biodiversity. Currently, the school has several teachers who are knowledgeable about nature and who run outdoor activities such as Forest School and a gardening club but who do not have time to devote to setting up new projects.

A very productive meeting was held at the school on March 16th. This was hosted by the Head Teacher, Ms Nichols, and attended by representatives of the Parent Teacher Association, Modbury Wildlife Action Group, the Parish Council and Devon Wildlife Trust Community Team.

After a comprehensive look at the whole school field and the area immediately adjoining the school buildings a draft plan for future actions was put together. The plan is divided into short term and longer term aims. The table below shows the overall draft plan. It was agreed that it would be best to start with the more manageable shorter term goals to provide quick results and encouragement.

Modbury Primary and Modbury Community Initiative: 'Wildlife & Well-being Project'	
School, Parents & Friends of Modbury Primary, MODWAG, Devon Wildlife Trust	
<u>SHORT TERM:</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mud Kitchen - Early Year outdoor Provision 2. Sensory Garden - Wellbeing/SEND provision 3. Kitchen Garden - Wellbeing/SEND provision
<u>MEDIUM TERM:</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wildlife Corridors around the school 2. Wildlife banks around the school 3. Nest boxes: children make bug/bird/bat boxes 4. Baseline Survey: children identify species/plants/animals in the school grounds
<u>LONG TERM:</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wildlife Pond in the sensory garden 2. Tree Planting 3. Quiet/Sensory Area in the bottom part of the field



The mud kitchen makes use of a small area adjoining the infant classroom and provides what is essentially an outdoor extension to the class room for imaginative play.



The sensory garden will aim to provide a calm quiet space, it would be particularly valuable for children who have special educational needs although open for all children who want some quiet time. The children will be asked to contribute to designs for this garden and ModWAG will help to plant it up.



The kitchen garden is currently being maintained by the older children in the gardening club but would benefit from some support in planting and maintenance.

Support

The PTA has already recruited parents to help with the setting up of the mud kitchen starting in April and has managed to source some of the materials for building shelves and cupboards.

Mod WAG have offered to help with planting up the sensory garden.

It is hoped to recruit community volunteers to work with the children to help maintain the kitchen garden.

Funding

The PTA is seeking funding to help with equipment and planting. An immediate need is for sets of child sized tools and waterproof overalls. The request to the Parish Council is for help in purchasing these items in order to get started on these projects as soon as possible.

If the Council has discretionary funds available this would be an excellent project to support as part of strengthening the relationship with the school and engagement with the wider community.

Ann Turner

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