

14th March 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

We would like to develop our outdoor area so that we are able to facilitate outdoor learning. Research has shown that outdoor learning and spending quality time in nature can benefit children in a multitude of ways: pupils are able to develop their self-regulation skills, build resilience, and improve their overall wellbeing and health.

In April the Aspire staff and children will be working on various projects to transform the outdoor area into a fabulous space that will enable us to grow food, support biodiversity and understand the importance of nature and looking after the environment.

We would be very grateful if you could help. We need donations of materials that can be used for our projects. One of our first tasks will to be build a bug hotel that will look similar to this:



As you can see we need a selection of items to create the layers:

- bricks**
- rocks**
- twigs**
- logs**
- pots**
- plastic tubing**
- bits of wood**
- pallets**

We also intend to create an allotment area where the children can grow fruit and vegetables. We will have raised flower beds where pollinator-friendly plants will grow. We intend to have a raised pond where pupils will be able to take part in pond-dipping and which will encourage a rich variety of wildlife. We would therefore appreciate if you are able to donate any unused garden materials you feel would help us: **soil, pots, tools, bird feeders and food, watering cans etc**

We are very excited about this project and hope that you can help us to make a huge success of it!
If you have any questions please contact me via the school office.

Yours sincerely,

Ms McGuinness
Eco-coordinator