

# Outdoor Learning

**"I hear and I forget**

**I see and I remember**

**I do and I understand"**

**Confucius (551 – 479 B.C.)**

Learning at Woodstone does not take place solely within our educational buildings. Outdoor time often provides the most memorable learning experiences and helps children to make sense of the world around them by putting their learning into a meaningful context.



Recent studies and our own observations have highlighted some benefits of outdoor learning for the children here at Woodstone:

- higher levels of conversational language
- greater independence
- improved health and sleeping patterns
- greater physical competence and agility
- improved focus and greater concentration
- a greater understanding of nature and the environment
- improved social skills, involvement and initiative

We believe that every child should experience the world beyond the classroom as an essential part of their learning and personal development and that is why we have made this one of our priorities at Woodstone. The outdoor environment has massive potential for providing learning opportunities. We are extremely fortunate to be set in large grounds and surrounded by an environment rich in opportunities. We also make full use of our local area whenever possible.



The outdoor environment offers motivating, exciting, different, relevant and easily accessible activities from our Reception Class through to Year 6. Our



outdoor learning experiences are delivered through a combination of school-based outdoor learning, visits to other places and residential programmes. We may also have visitors in from time to time who also enhance our outdoor learning opportunities.

The journey through education for a child at Woodstone will include a series of planned, quality outdoor learning experiences. Learning outdoors is part of our wide range of practical approaches to developing skills. Opportunities for outdoor learning exist within and across all curriculum areas and help to develop personal and social skills, communication, problem solving, thinking skills and teamwork, as well as English, Mathematics and all other curriculum areas.



Outdoor learning experiences are often remembered for a lifetime. Integrating learning and outdoor experiences, whether through play in the immediate grounds or adventures further afield, provides relevance and depth to the curriculum in ways that are difficult to achieve indoors. Learning outdoors can be enjoyable, creative, challenging and adventurous and helps children learn by experience and grow as confident and responsible citizens who value and appreciate the natural environment.