



Head Teacher: Mrs Emma Bowler
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8th September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

WOODLAND WONDERS

This term, the year 2 children will have the opportunity to take part in 'Woodland Wonders', our outdoor learning sessions. The children will get 2 opportunities this term to spend an afternoon with Mrs Buckby, taking part in gardening activities, arts and crafts and projects in the woodland area at the bottom of the main playground.

What is Woodland Wonders?

Woodland Wonders is a child-centred outdoor learning environment that embraces the natural world as a classroom. At WIS, our Woodland Wonders sessions focus on the wellbeing, physical and emotional development, of each child.

Woodland Wonders provides children with meaningful, hands-on experiences that complement classroom teaching. It is not simply about taking learning outside; it is about using the outdoor environment purposefully to deepen children's understanding, develop independence and nurture their physical, social and emotional development.

At Woodthorpe Infant School, these outdoor learning experiences link particularly well with **OPAL**, as both promote active, child-led experiences, appropriate risk-taking, creativity, collaboration and positive attitudes towards learning.

What will the children be doing?

At Woodland Wonders, children will have the opportunity to explore, learn and have fun outdoors. Our sessions will encourage children to develop their understanding of nature and the environment while building confidence, independence and teamwork skills.

Gardening and Growing

Children will get hands-on experience caring for plants and growing their own food. They will:

- Plant herbs, fruit, flowers and vegetables in our raised beds.
- Grow a range of produce, including potatoes, tomatoes, lettuce and berries.
- Plant seeds and watch them grow and change over time.
- Plant cress to take home and enjoy watching grow.
- Learn how to use gardening tools safely.
- Explore and handle soil, compost, seeds and plants.
- Develop their understanding of how plants grow and what they need to thrive.
- Use scientific vocabulary to talk about what they observe.





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Exploring Nature

Children will have lots of opportunities to discover and appreciate the natural world around them. Through crafts, games and practical activities, they will explore plants, animals and habitats.

Activities may include:

- Creating nature-inspired crafts.
- Making leaf rubbings.
- Exploring and learning about insects and other minibeasts.
- Creating and using nature names.
- Learning about animals such as hedgehogs.
- Developing areas of our school grounds to encourage and support wildlife.

As our Woodland Wonders area develops, children will also help to create bug hotels, wildlife water areas, bird feeders and bird tables, and eventually a bird hide. They will learn to identify birds and other wildlife by sight and sound.

Den Building and Knot Tying

Children will develop practical outdoor skills through den building and learning how to tie different knots. They will learn to:

- Work together to design and build dens.
- Use natural materials safely and responsibly.
- Tie simple knots, including an overhand knot, reef knot and clove hitch.
- Solve problems and make decisions as a team.

Learning Together

Woodland Wonders is not just about learning about nature – it is also about developing important life skills. Children will learn to:

- Listen carefully and follow instructions.
- Work cooperatively in groups.
- Share equipment and take turns.
- Develop independence and confidence.
- Persevere when something is tricky.
- Care for plants, animals and their outdoor environment.



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Most importantly, Woodland Wonders will give children the chance to get outside, get their hands dirty, enjoy being in nature and learn through real-life experiences.

The children do not need to bring in a change of clothes for these sessions, if it is raining then the children will wear their OPaL wellies and school provided waterproofs.

Look out for the new herb area and apple trees!

Yours sincerely

Mrs Emma Bowler
Head Teacher