



Outside area DEVELOPMENT

Development at the front of the school (left hand side)

We want to develop the area in front of the school to include an outside classroom that will offer much needed shade in the summer as well as being an area that classes can utilise to enhance their learning. It will also incorporate a sensory garden that will offer a quieter space during playtimes that children can access for a bit of down time.

We are currently getting quotes for developing this area

We hope to dig down to make this area the same level as the playground. We are going to relocate the eco-greenhouse and create new raised beds in the Forest School area. Our Eco team will be helping us to do this on Sat 22nd April, 10am-noon. Please come and join us!



Existing zone in front of the school (left hand side)

Our Potential Plans!



After



Development at the front of the school (right hand side)

We would like to improve the biodiversity by improving the range of planting to encourage more insects and birds to visit our school. The tree on the right hand side of the plot is a memorial tree that helps us to remember a child who is no longer with us, so we wanted to make this even more special by adding seating around it. We will keep the stage, as this is already a favourite part of the playground and we will add new flooring to make it an inviting space to spend time.



Existing zone in front of the school (right hand side)

Our Potential Plans!



2 different potential plans

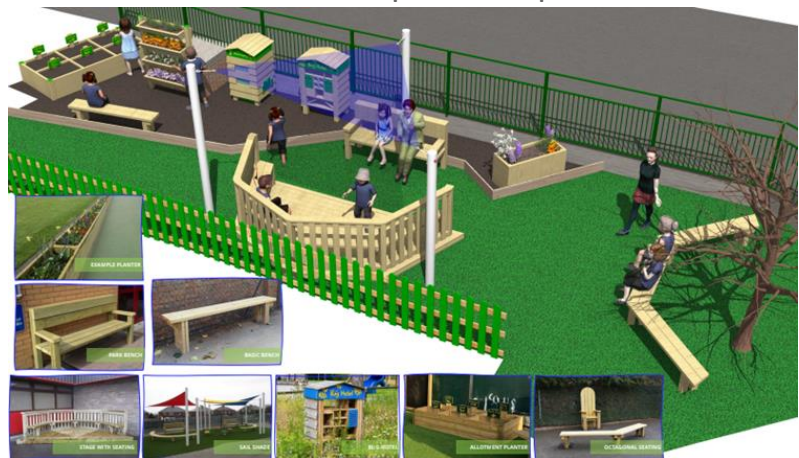
We are currently getting quotes for developing this area



All these plans are very expensive so we are going to be having lots of exciting events over the next couple of years to help us to fundraise so that we can make these plans and designs a reality!

Fundraising ideas: Look out for details about a film night and summer BBQ!

If you have any ideas about how we can fundraise, please get in touch.



Forest School



Forest school has gone through a big change. DIS has two good sized playgrounds and is surrounded by trees but we didn't have green space that could be accessed at playtimes by a whole year group...but now we do!

Governors and the school's Eco team had a meeting with Chris from The Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust to help establish how we could further improve the use of the space within the forest school.



On Chris' advice, we cut back the holly and brambles, leaving all the trees and woodland floor to gain additional light so that other species of plant could prosper.



Removing the brambles has created usable, shaded space where teaching inputs can be delivered. We can now access the well needed shade in the summer, offer by the large oak tree, and a whole year group can spend their lunchtimes here.



Our aim is to make this an area that can develop all areas of learning from English, maths, science, physical development and much more! We have already made an addition of an obstacle course to develop core strength and balance.

We have many more plans to make this area into an outside classroom including the addition of a mud kitchen to develop PSED, loose parts to develop creative and critical thinking, a bug hotel to help us learn about the environment, the relocation of our eco-greenhouse and addition of raised beds for planting to support our learning in science.

New Mud Kitchen Area In The Playground



Before

- Inaccessible from the playground when unsupervised
- Safety concerns with regard to the stream/pond
- Broken equipment such as compost bins
- Eco Team met to discuss how to develop the area

Progress so Far



I feel really calm when I am in here.

This is my favourite place to play. It's really nice to sit and chat to my friends.

- Outer fence removed to allow access directly and independently at playtimes
- New fence to maintain safety of stream/pond
- Bramble and hawthorn removed
- Broken equipment removed
- Compost distributed around the site.
- Thanks to the help of our brilliant Eco Team and Mr. Briggs, we have already managed to clear the site and get it organised in one Saturday morning.
- Donations of utensils and pans from local community added
- Table and chairs added for the mud café
- Children are already accessing the space and feedback from them has been fabulous!



Mud kitchen delivered over the Easter holiday