



Outdoor Learning  
at  
Jerry Clay Academy

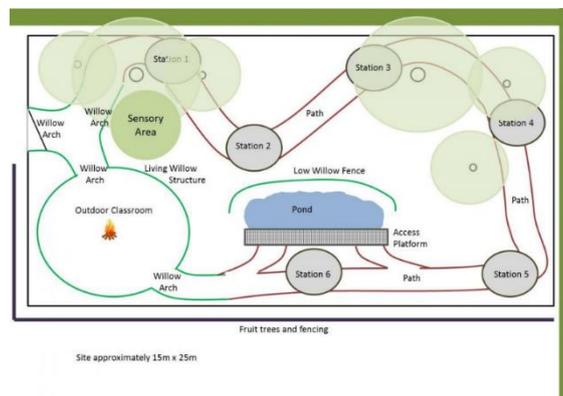
## Outdoor Learning Area (Working with Eden's Forest)



Throughout the academic year; 2015/16, we worked with the staff from Eden's Forest to develop our Outdoor Learning Area.

From the planning stage to the actual developments, all children in school were involved.

Firstly, the school council met with Adam and Jerome to discuss the budget, before Adam and Jerome drew up a plan, which included everything we needed:



Following on from this, each week a different class worked with Adam and Jerome, as well as some volunteers from the local community, to develop the area! Jobs ranged from making willow arches to moving woodchip in a wheel barrow and from making fences to actually lining the pond!



The cost was covered by our School Council, the PTA and a donation from Taylor Wimpey!



One child certainly enjoyed it:

*'It was the best day of my life because we were outside helping for most of it. I loved learning facts about willow.'*

Most recently, the Outdoor Learning Area has been re-named 'The Keith Orrell Outdoor Classroom' after our recently retired, long-serving governor.



For more information, visit:

<https://www.edensforest.co.uk/blog/jerry-clay-lane-primary-academy.html>

## Creative Arts Area

During Creative Arts Week 2016, we developed the area at the front of school. Each class created a wood sculpture, weaved on the fence and contributed to a different area within the actual space!



We love seeing the area being used in lessons!



### Year 1 – Dungeons and Dragons Day

Year 1 had a brilliant day developing story ideas in their 'Dungeons and Dragons' topic. The day started with developing the characters and setting which involved making a brilliant castle and a huge dragon! As the story ideas developed, we decided that at the end of the story, the castle was going to be burnt down by the dragon... we didn't realise that it actually would be!!



### Year 1 and 2 – Toys Through Time day

In Year 1 and 2, we have had an exciting day of outdoor learning as part of our topic 'Toys Through Time' with Adam and Jerome from Eden's Forest. Throughout the day, we explored old wooden toys, made our own pea shooter from a piece of elder wood and invented our own games!



## Year 2 – Mining Day

Year 2 participated in an outdoor learning day with Adam and Jerome. Spending the day looking at mining, we learnt about how coal is formed and where it was found right across the UK. We also learnt about



the reason why coal was so important and learnt about why it is so precious. We used the willow from the outdoor area and burnt it to create our own charcoal, which we used to create our own mining image! At the end of the day, we were told the story about the Chilean miners – we talked about how they would have felt and the problems that will have arisen.



## Year 3 and 4 – Viking Day

Year 3 and 4 were also lucky enough to have Adam and Jerome working with them and experienced a day in the life of a Viking!

We used tools to complete jobs that the children would have done in Viking times, ate Viking stew from an open fire, learned to prepare fleece and spin yarn to make clothing and made our own ancient rune stone. Finally, we also prepared a warrior called 'Brant' for his journey to Valhalla!



### Year 4 – Minibeast Hunt

In Science, Year 4 loved exploring the minibeasts found in our outdoor area. It was great to be able to delve in and around the bushes and trees and under the logs and leaves and we found a lot of different creepy crawlies as well as a family of frogs. We found that the pond was teeming with pond skaters, lesser water boatmen and pond snails. We will be looking at these invertebrates again in detail and learning to use branching diagrams to classify them.



### Year 5 – Life Cycles Day

Our Outdoor Learning days don't just involve our topics. Year 5 participated in a day led by Adam and Jerome based on life cycles.

We had a fabulous day of Science learning outside – where we were investigating life cycles of animals with Adam and Jerome from Eden's Forest. The team work skills showcased by all of the class were phenomenal, work ethic was high and the sun even shone on us for most of the day!

To finish off our day, we had a fire and some sweet treats!



### Year 6 – Maths Mystery Day

During Maths Week, Year 6 were outside solving a 'Murder Mystery' in the Outdoor Learning Area.

Although it was raining quite a lot, we persevered and everybody worked exceptionally hard in teams to try and find out who the murderer was. During this day we looked at algebra, code cracking and BODMAS to solve the issues.



### Outdoor Learning lessons

At Jerry Clay Academy, we continue to teach lessons outside; something which we all enjoy! Outside, all curriculum areas are developed in a very engaging way. Outdoor Learning lessons happen at least once a week, with some classes having even more!

Some quotes from our children show their enjoyment!



*"I enjoy outdoor learning because you get fresh air whilst learning."*

Year 2

*"You get to use natural resources to help with learning"*

Year 4

*"It means more space and freedom. It's practical."*

Year 6

*"It's different to normal."*

Year 1

*"People can see how amazing our school is with the new Outdoor Learning Area. They would be inspired."*

Year 6





Morgan, who was 9 years old, was sawing a piece of wood which made him happy!