



# South Farnham School

*The Continual Pursuit of Excellence*

Member of the South Farnham Educational Trust

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Headteacher: **Miss Esther Whitbourn**

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023

## Outdoor Woodland Learners (OWLs)

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are delighted to announce that at South Farnham School we are introducing our Outdoor Woodland Learners (OWLs) initiative for all children across the school. We are incredibly excited to see our children become more at one with nature and develop other skills in their continual pursuit of excellence.

The OWLs Initiative is a holistic educational approach that takes place in natural settings, such as forests, woodlands, and outdoor environments. Our aim is to connect children with nature, promote experiential learning, and foster personal, social, and emotional development. As a school, we believe that this will not only allow them to develop new skills outdoors but also help them develop skills needed in the classroom.

### ***Key Benefits of the OWLs Initiative:***

1. **Outdoor Learning:** The initiative will encourage children to explore and learn in the great outdoors. Research has shown that exposure to nature can improve focus and enhance creativity.
2. **Physical Health:** Outdoor activities will promote physical fitness and well-being. Children will engage in activities such as gardening and team-building exercises that will contribute to their overall health.
3. **Environmental Awareness:** By spending time in natural environments, children will develop a greater appreciation for the environment and a sense of responsibility toward its preservation.
4. **Problem-Solving Skills:** OWLs encourages children to take on challenges, work as a team and develop problem-solving skills in a natural setting.
5. **Creativity and Imagination:** Outdoor play and exploration can stimulate creativity and imagination, leading to improved cognitive development.
6. **Personal Growth:** OWLs will foster personal growth by building resilience, self-confidence and self-esteem in our children.
7. **Connection with Curriculum:** This initiative will complement our existing curriculum, providing opportunities for hands-on, real-world learning experiences that enhance academic achievement.

Over the course of the year you will hear more news about when your child will be having OWL sessions. We look forward to embarking on this exciting journey with your child and sharing our progress along the way.

Best wishes,

Miss Whitbourn  
Headteacher



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