

Year 6 – Outdoor Week at Wren Park: A Journey Through Nature and Learning



Monday 17th – Friday 21st June was Outdoor Week at Wren Park. Fresh air and nature promotes a healthy mind, body, and spirit and we certainly reaped the benefits of an improved sense of well-being, enhanced mood, and greater motivation to learn.

We planned a broad range of exciting lessons across the curriculum designed to engage children in hands-on activities that nurtured their curiosity and enhanced their skills. Here are just some of the magical moments experienced by Year 6 during this special week....

❖ **Maths and Science: estimating and measuring in nature**

In our Maths sessions, children took on the role of young scientists and mathematicians as they investigated the oldest and tallest tree in Wren Park. To find the age of the tree, they simply measured the circumference of the trunk and divided it by 2.5. To find the tallest tree, children had to pace away from the trunk, then view the whole tree by looking upside down through their legs! They then measured the distance from the tree to their feet to find out the height of the tree. Finally, they classified the trees using a database. Year 6 applied their knowledge and skills of measurement, estimation, and data collection in understanding the natural world.

❖ **Geography: map skills**

Year 6 used an Ordnance Survey (OS) map of our school grounds and applied their geographical knowledge of plotting 6-figure grid references of the tallest and oldest trees at Wren Park. This skill certainly sharpened their spatial awareness and encourages precise thinking. They gained confidence in navigating the outdoors, equipping them with essential tools for future adventures.

❖ **Aboriginal Art**

Creativity blossomed during our sessions on Aboriginal 'dot' art, where Year 6 explored the ancient Australian art form known for its unique patterns and symbolic meanings. They created their own masterpieces using natural tools foraged from the school grounds, such as twigs, leaves, seeds and stones. This activity connected children with the rich culture of Aboriginal Australians while promoting resourcefulness and artistic expression.

❖ **Science: What is waste?**

In an engaging game of SpoGomi, Year 6 combined fun with environmental stewardship. Derived from the Japanese words for “sports” and “garbage,” SpoGomi involves teams competing to collect and sort litter within a designated area. It prompted the question, ‘What is waste and how can we reduce it?’ This activity fostered teamwork and instilled a sense of responsibility towards keeping our surroundings clean and healthy. As children worked together to make Wren Park pristine, we saw in our school values in action: they were ambitious in winning the game and showed respect for our environment. Back in the classroom, Year 6 will be writing pledges and persuasive letters to Mr Buckley, explaining ways in which we can be a ‘greener’ school and reduce what we waste.

Outdoor Week culminated in a delightful picnic on the field – a fitting celebration of the week's activities – allowing pupils to unwind and reflect on their adventures while sharing stories and laughter with friends. Zayd shared, "I enjoyed measuring the trees, we found out the lengths and ages!" Florence added, "I loved having lunch on the field with everyone."

