



Lower School Wild Child Charter

Horris Hill School

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Research has shown the importance of nature to the human body and mind and also a clear link between the time spent in nature and improvements in areas such as motivation, problem solving and self esteem.

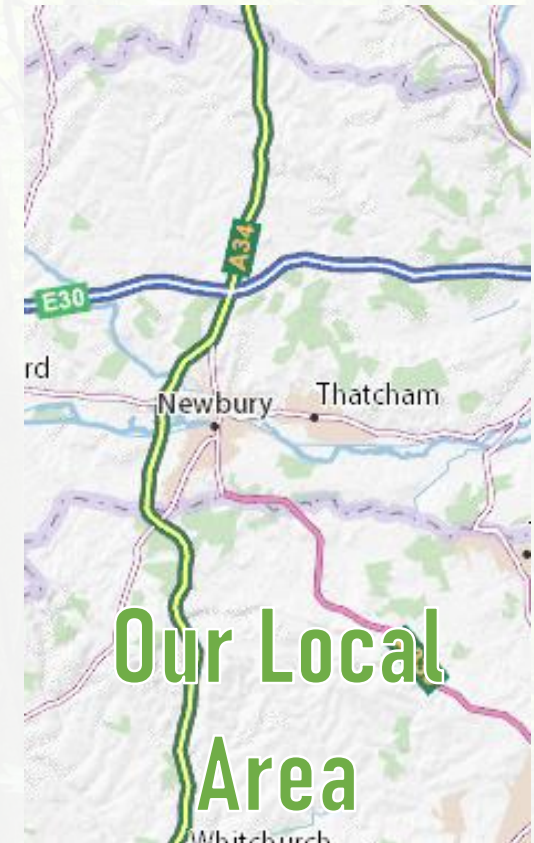
Richard Louv says *'Time in nature is not leisure time; it is an essential investment in our children's health.'* He believes children of this generation face the risk of 'nature deficit disorder.' A recent study found that the average American child spends seven minutes a day in free play outside and yet seven hours in front of a screen.

As a department we are committed to developing the whole child, both in and out of the classroom. With this in mind, as a team, we have created the Horris Hill Wild Child Charter. The charter sets out what we believe are the key experiences of a natural childhood. We believe our pupils should have had all these experiences before they move into the Upper School.

We will be working through these challenges each week and record the progress on a wild child tracker. Once the tracker is completed, the girl or boy is officially a Horris Hill Wild Child!

Lower School Wild Child Charter

The four strands that make up the Wild Child Charter are:



Wild Child Charter: Our Woods

During their time in the Lower School, children will be given the opportunity to:

- ❖ Learn about safe forest play
- ❖ Go out to play in all weathers
- ❖ Climb trees
- ❖ Make dens
- ❖ Recognise trees in the local environment and know which ones are evergreen or deciduous
- ❖ Roll down hills
- ❖ Have a camp fire and sing camp fire songs
- ❖ Go on mini beast hunts
- ❖ Collect autumn leaves
- ❖ Have a picnic in the woods
- ❖ Make natural art
- ❖ Camouflage in the woods
- ❖ Tie knots
- ❖ Whittle a stick
- ❖ Collect conkers
- ❖ Make mud pies
- ❖ Build trust through team games
- ❖ Learn what animals live in our woods



Wild Child Charter: Our Kitchen Garden

During their time in the Lower School, children will be given the opportunity to:

- ❖ Learn how to work safely in the garden
- ❖ Watch a plant grow from seed
- ❖ Understand what plants need to grow
- ❖ Dig, weed, water and work the soil
- ❖ Grow and harvest vegetables
- ❖ Make a scarecrow
- ❖ Learn about composting, recycling and mulching
- ❖ Prepare healthy food, such as making salads and help prepare school lunches
- ❖ Recognise different plants using their senses
- ❖ Eat fruit/veg straight from the plant
- ❖ Make bread from scratch



Wild Child Charter: Our School

During their time in the Lower School, children will be given the opportunity to:

- ❖ Identify different clouds
- ❖ Collect rubbish
- ❖ Recognise a variety of animal tracks
- ❖ Know which animals hibernate
- ❖ Recognise common butterflies
- ❖ Use vegetables and leaves to dye fabric
- ❖ Follow a life cycle
- ❖ Identify common birds
- ❖ Make a kite
- ❖ Jump in puddles
- ❖ Make a snowman
- ❖ Go pond dipping
- ❖ Recognise star constellations
- ❖ Help a wild animal
- ❖ Recognise the seasons



Wild Child Charter: Our local area

During their time in the Lower School, children will be given the opportunity to:

- ❖ Dam a river
- ❖ Visit a farm
- ❖ Watch cows being milked
- ❖ Skim stones
- ❖ Collect shells at the beach
- ❖ Visit a bee hive
- ❖ Go pond dipping
- ❖ Go paddling
- ❖ Play pooh sticks
- ❖ Use a compass

