

Open spaces encourage open minds

ONE definite and proven benefit of lockdowns and restrictions over the last couple of years has been renewed appreciation for our outdoor spaces. We now have recent and powerful evidence, many of us first hand, of the benefit for the well-being of children and adults. There are also endless opportunities to boost learning when children are given the time to explore and connect with nature and the world outside. This could be a small patch of grass exploring minibeasts or the many expansive areas on our doorsteps here in the Surrey hills – canals, rivers, hills, woodlands, open fields, parks and gardens.

Children are naturally curious and it is incredibly important that they have the chance for this natural curiosity to grow and develop. Heading out on a sensory walk and considering what you can see, hear, smell, touch and even taste can be exhilarating. Setting up nature surveys to count the number of birds or catalogue minibeasts can be fun but is also developing a wide range of skills, not least some patience and tenacity.

Such experiences can lead to creative outcomes such as painting, poetry, stories and can also encourage an immediate sense of the value of nature and the importance of our environment. Children may see and have heard about climate change and some may even be quite concerned about what this may mean. By actively protecting even the smallest patch of nature and looking after children learn that small actions can make a large impact. Two budding environmentalists at school recently felt so passionately about the plight of bees due to changes in the law regarding pesticides that they have written to their local MP and gathered over 250 signatures on their petition for the government to review this. Wonderful to see community action with real world consequences and children standing up for what they believe. Step one is to appreciate the open spaces in order to encourage open minds.



**BELIEVE.
ACHIEVE.
SUCCEED.**

St Catherine's is a place where your daughter will develop a lifelong love for learning, in a supportive and homely environment. Both in and outside the classroom, she will experience a range of opportunities, and discover her strengths and passions.

From this foundation, she will grow in confidence and develop a curiosity about everything around her. She will leave our Prep School believing in her abilities and ready to embrace new challenges in senior school.

OPEN EVENTS

Open Mornings from 9.45am

Friday 6th May 2022

Friday 10th June 2022 - geared to Reception 4+ Entry

Reception Entry Taster Afternoon

Friday 30th September 2022, 1.30 - 2.45pm

Reception Entry Play Assessment

Saturday 15th October 2022, 10am - 12noon

preadmissions@stcatherines.info



To view our school film visit www.stcatherines.info/schoolfilms



St Catherine's Prep, Bramley

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