

Welcome to The D.E.N. @ Nailsea School

Since January this year we have been developing a new outdoor education project, giving students a chance to learn outside of the classroom and try new things. We recently decided on a name for our project, and we have decided on 'The DEN'. This stands for Developing Engagement with Nature – because that's what we do!



Finding fun and interesting ways to connect with the natural environment we want to enable students to develop new skills, confidence to achieve, and a greater awareness of issues relating to the world around them.

Our work centres around 3 main areas:

- **Bushcraft skills**
- **Gardening**
- **Environmental art**

One week we might be digging a vegetable bed, the next cooking up nettle tea over a fire, or making bunting from fused plastic bags – it's very varied, and we are always open to new ideas.

Where we are:

Located at the front of the school, near to the pond, we have taken a plain area of field, and created a truly unique area to work from. Near to completion now, we have a wooden gazebo being installed inside a living willow circle that we planted in the Spring. We have soil filled tyres that we have grown lots of different veg in, a fire pit with logs to sit on all around, a willow arch at the entrance and two further vegetable beds on either side. Pop by and take a look!



How you can get involved:

We really hope we can get more and more people using the area next year. We'd like to see more students have DEN sessions, for teachers to run their lessons outside, for The DEN to host school and community events, and maybe run adult education classes from there too. If you have any suggestions, or you would like to use our area, please get in touch.

We are always on the look out for donations of items – and skills! If you are about to send a pair of wellington boots to the charity shop, or find you have 2 wheel barrows taking up space in the shed, we'd love to take them off your hands. Or, if you have a skill you could share and you'd like to help in some way, please get in touch and I'm sure we can work something out.

If you'd like to learn more about the project or see what we've done so far, come by and see if we are there. If not, contact me at rhollingdale@nailseaschool.com and I will get back to you. Thanks!

Upcoming events:

Skatefest

We are going to have a stall at Nailsea Skatepark & Activities showcase at Millennium Park, 19th July, 1 – 5pm. We will be selling Elderflower cordial that the students have made, plants that we have grown, and making various things as well as displaying some of the work we have done this year.

Cadbury's

We are going to be doing a bag pack at Cadbury's Garden centre with LARP (Liva Action Role Play) on 21st September to help raise funds for the project – come and show your support!

Logo Design – vote now!

We have four designs that we are choosing between – please vote and help us chose. The winning design will be smartened up by a graphic designer and become the image to represent The DEN.

Email rhollingdale@nailseaschool.com to make your vote count. Chose 1,2,3 or 4.

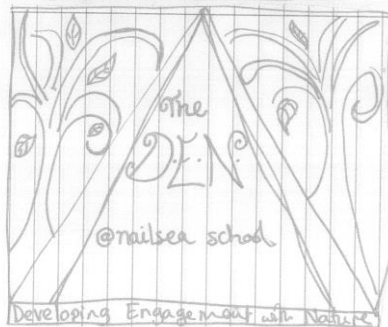
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