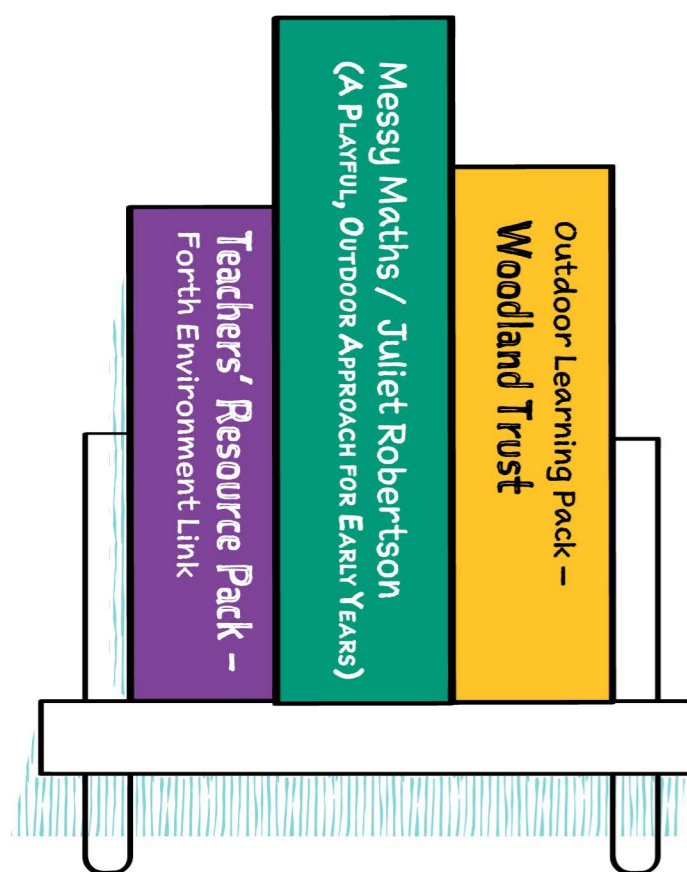




GARTMORE

Bookshelf of Reading and Research



Go to:

Learning Through Landscapes Website

(they have a huge range of downloadable resources)

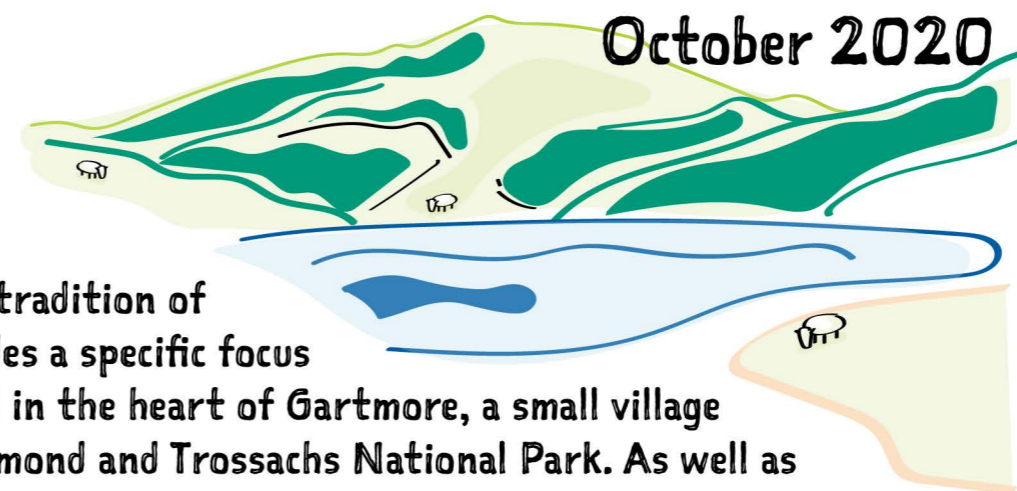
GARTMORE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Gartmore Primary has a long standing tradition of delivering a rich curriculum which includes a specific focus on sustainability. The school is situated in the heart of Gartmore, a small village in Stirlingshire that is part of Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park. As well as a tarmacked playground, the school benefits from a large field and apple orchard. Children enjoy a variety of different areas and levels for play and learning.



We strive to ensure children have access to a Learning for Sustainability curriculum that is progressive, practical and takes account of local issues as well as developing an understanding of the wider world in which we live.

Gartmore primary school was recently awarded its 6th Green Flag. Our plans for Learning for Sustainability, led by a local volunteer, focused on 3 main themes over the past year or two. Litter (responsible consumption and production), Grounds, (good health and well-being, life on land) and Food and the Environment (responsible consumption and production).



October 2020

Effective use of the school environment and surrounding area to develop **UNDERSTANDING OF sustainability AND PROVIDE outdoor learning experiences**

The school and Parent Council encourage and support outdoor play with appropriate resources. Regular visits to the apple orchard are made where the trees are measured and their health is checked. A willow hide was planted which helps pupils observe bird life and we have also made bags of nesting materials to hang on orchard trees. Each year, children survey native birds using the RSPB bird survey. Fruit and vegetables are grown in the raised beds and these are used for cooking in school. We also submit entries of vegetables to the local horticultural show in August each year if there are any worthy items!

Much of our work is seasonal, so for example, when there is blossom on the trees in early May, children learn about pollination and pollinators, with a special focus on bumble-bees. A highlight of the annual calendar is Apple Day where children work in mixed aged groups on activities, ranging from cooking with apples to identifying different varieties of apples, and art work with a focus on apples. For the past two years, children have grown flowers from seed to create a pallet garden that won awards at the Gardening Scotland Show at Ingliston, Edinburgh.



Another community aspect of our work is with a local charity called Green Routes. Children have visited Green Routes to see how crop rotation is practised and learn about animal husbandry of sheep, hens, ducks and pigs. This year, they have sown pumpkin seeds which will be planted at Green Routes. They will be able to monitor their growth and harvest the crop in October.

This session, as part of our school improvement plan, we plan to develop our growing culture with our Parent Council supporting our plans to build more raised beds, or possibly a small poly tunnel. We are also changing our focus slightly to look at outdoor learning, particularly with an emphasis on play as well as supporting children to make dens and utilise their outdoor space.

The impact on children is that they have a detailed understanding of the role that they can play in Learning for Sustainability. Children have a local knowledge of birds and plants and have a wider knowledge of issues such as food miles and the effect they have on our carbon footprint. All children know their part in looking after the world around them and are developing essential skills along the way.

Fiona Buchanan
- headteacher

