



## St Martin's C of E Primary and Nursery School

Younghayes Road, Cranbrook, EX5 7DT

Tel: 01404 515409 Email: [admin@stmartinscranbrook.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stmartinscranbrook.devon.sch.uk)

Sally Hutchinson  
The Nineveh Charitable Trust  
8 Mill Lane  
Saffron Walden  
Essex  
CB10 2AS

12<sup>th</sup> October 2021

### Successful Application to the Nineveh Trust - Pond and Hide Development

Dear Sally

I am writing to provide the Ninevah Trust with an update on how we have used your generous funding of £2,500 towards our Pond and Hide Development project. I have also included some photos showing how the area is looking now that we have been able to install the hide and new decking areas.

We have spent the grant funding on the following:

- Extra support posts to strengthen the existing fence around the water in the playground - £200
- Picket fencing to close off the area from the access gate to the viewing platform. £800
- Installing a frame and decking to a viewing platform at the edge of the existing deck and making the existing decking non-slip - £1,200

We are planning on spending the remaining £300 on plants to improve the water quality and attract diverse wildlife. The school managed to budget for the remaining costs incurred of installing an additional decking area and hide.

The benefits of the new decking that was supported by the funding from Ninevah have been amazing. Previously, we have had to limit pond dipping to the older children who are able to reach from the existing higher-level decking area and this has meant that a huge proportion of children have missed out. Since the installation of the lower decking, the younger children, in particular the Nursery, have been able to take part in pond dipping. The lower decking provides a safe area for them to access the pond, while also having a safe waiting area away from the water's edge.

The new fencing has enabled access to the pond area from the forest, providing a safe path to the higher decking area without having to leave the forest, walk across the playground and then go in through another gate. This has allowed us to split the older children into groups so that more of them are able to access the pond dipping at the same time.

During Covid it also meant that it was technically a separate teaching area. We were able to have one group of children in the forest and one group of children in the pond area without mixing the 'bubbles'.



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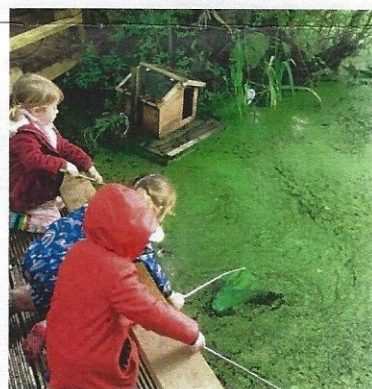
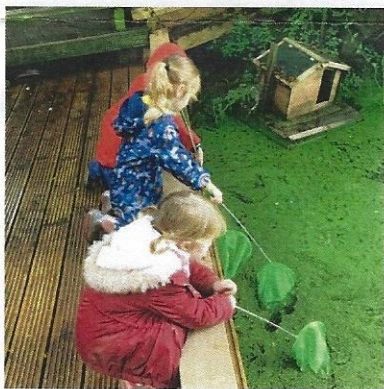
Allowing access to the younger children has meant that they have been able to take part in the pond dipping activity which is advantageous for their learning about the world that we live in. Our pond now supports a large variety of wildlife and the children were fascinated by the newts, water beetles etc. It has given them a new appreciation for how diverse the wildlife can be in a pond as a large portion of them have never been pond dipping before. I think some had the wrong idea and we did have to explain that it wasn't them being dipped in the pond!

On behalf of St Martin's, I would like to thank the Ninevah Trust again for their generous donation to enable us to create a place of relaxation while providing interaction and education for all our children and staff.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brigid Thompson'.

Brigid Thompson  
School Business Manager



Some of our Nursery children enjoying pond dipping