

PRESS RELEASE

St Catherine's Prep School Invest in the benefits of 'Outdoor Learning'



Mandy Shepherd opening Little Wood Lodge



St Catherine's Prep School has raised funds for a new outdoor learning classroom to be known as 'Little Wood Lodge'. The reason behind this beautiful outdoor chalet is that St Catherine's believes in the great benefits from 'outdoor learning'. St Catherine's wants the girls to learn about the natural environment through seeing, hearing, touch and smell. Research shows that learning outdoors can be more motivating and have added impact as well as helping to develop the learning skills of enquiry, experiment, feedback review and cooperative learning. We will also have our PE department located in the same building which will allow close proximity from the classroom to the actual 'putting it into practice'. It is our hope that the girls will associate learning with the love of all things outdoors – whether that be sport, nature, science or the environment.

The actual building has been made with sustainability in mind and fits perfectly into the local Surrey Hills. The components of this new build are all Eco friendly.

Mandy Shepherd, local wildlife artist and Honorary Vice President of the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, opened the new building on Saturday 11th May at our annual village May Fair. She said, "I was absolutely delighted to open your beautiful new Little Wood Lodge. It really will be a privilege for the children to work in such a fabulous building. A happy child must mean a successful child! You must all be so proud of the realisation of such a project and something that will last for a very long time".

Katie aged 10 said, "I have always found getting outside and learning through physical challenges great fun. I feel so pleased we live in the countryside and can enjoy being outside at school". Georgia, aged 11 said "I already really enjoy gardening club, planting and watching our own flowers and vegetables grow. It will be great to have the opportunity to look at other areas of nature"

Naomi Bartholomew, Headmistress of St Catherine's Prep School said "I am so grateful to all the parents of the Prep School and the PTA for donating all proceeds from the May Fair to the kitting out of Little Wood Lodge and landscaping the garden around the new structure. The money raised today has helped this dream to become a reality. Today's May Fair has had a real party atmosphere. We are so looking forward to this new building enhancing the girls Outdoor Learning". The Fair raised £7300, which will enable the school to purchase a Bug City, wooden leaf stools and a creative cascade set .

Mrs Thurston, current parent at the school, said "I have never seen the May Fair so busy and how lucky we were with the weather. The stalls were so beautifully decorated and my children had a fantastic spending all their pocket money! The atmosphere in the village hall for cakes and refreshments was really buzzing - so lovely to see".

For more information please contact Mrs Sally Manhire, Registrar and Marketing at St Catherine's Prep School on 01483 899665 or sally.manhire@stcatherines.info



'British wildlife prints by Mandy Shepherd'