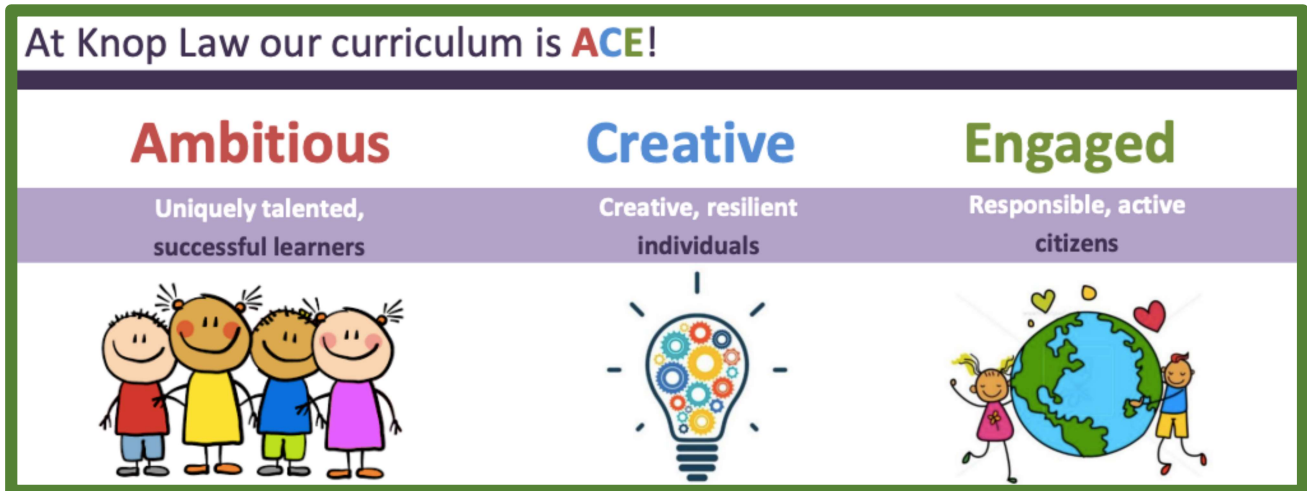
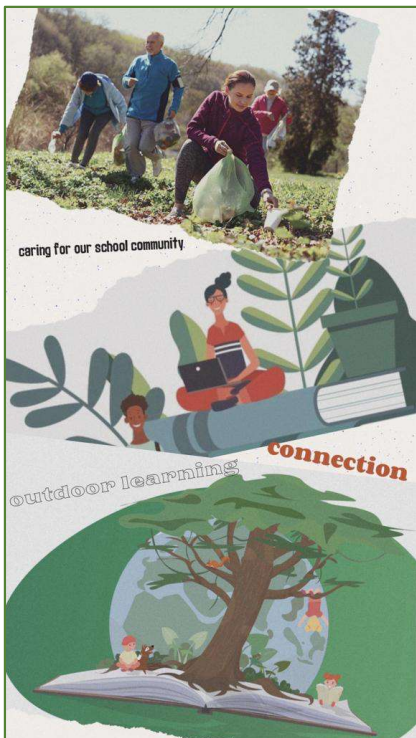


Ambitious – Creative – Engaged: our school’s cultural offer

Focus:



As part of our ongoing curriculum development, it has been important for us to consider our cultural offer; that is, what are the cultural opportunities we offer our children? How can our children engage with these opportunities, and why? By the end of year 6, what do we want every Knop Law pupil to have experienced? These were the questions in consideration as I embarked on the Cultural Leadership in Education course.



Our overall aim is to develop a cultural offer which comprises a wide range of cultural experiences for our children, working with staff and external specialists alike, to include experiences within school and those part of educational visits to cultural establishments.

The project aim: outdoor learning

For our World Book Day celebration, we had a green theme, with everyone sharing a book together: *Who Makes A Forest?* The day began with a whole-school launch assembly, where we met our outdoor learning specialist partner Elaine.

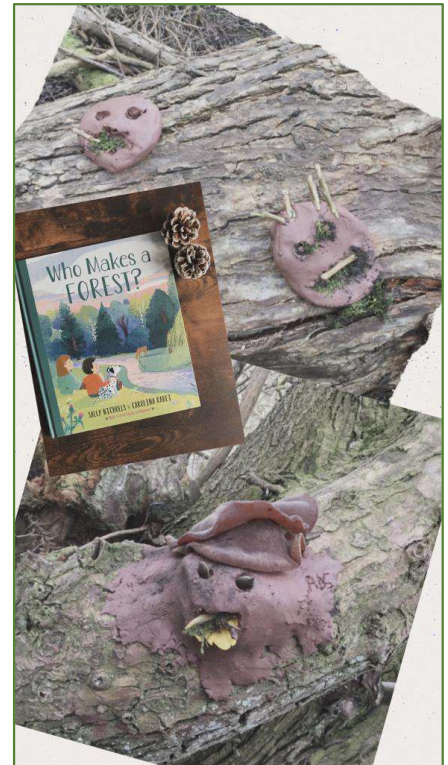
Previously, Elaine has worked very closely with EYFS, and World Book Day was an opportunity to connect with Elaine throughout the rest of the school, serving to further strengthen our ties with a specialist partner.

Each year group then had the opportunity to explore the secret garden and work together to respond to a challenge; for example, the focus of our year 5 challenge was to take care of our school environment by litter picking.

The day's events launched our outdoor learning offer: every half term, each class will spend a day in our special secret garden.

Project outcomes (thus far!)

On the project's launch day, children were incredibly engaged and excited about being outdoors and in the secret garden. In my year 5 class, the children absolutely came alive: those who had previously faced challenges with making and maintaining friendships were able to make new connections and work together to create clay 'green men' (see image); those who can at times lack appropriate learning behaviours in the classroom were enthusiastic and engaged; those who feel anxiousness when completing classroom tasks were able to explore the secret garden at their own pace and on their own terms.



Since our project launch on World Book Day, each week 'rangers' from my year 5 class have been chosen to support EYFS children on their weekly outdoor learning day each Friday. This is the highlight of children's week and I'm excited to see the longer term impact of the outdoor learning project – and the impact it has on children's wellbeing – as it becomes more firmly embedded as part of our ongoing offer.



Reflections & looking to the future

Although our whole-school outdoor learning project is still in its early stages – and the overall cultural offer project more so – it has been invaluable to see the impact that building upon ties with specialists can have on opportunities for children. I see this initial project as somewhat of a template for future projects as we work to re-establish our cultural offer: performances in prestigious venues; learning a range of musical instruments; working with local artists...

A particular notion that is now firmly at the forefront of my mind – thanks to the Cultural Leadership in Education course – is that of 'ties' or 'string' that connects our school community to cultural partners. Moving forward, in order to develop the cultural offer for our pupils at Knop Law, I'm keen to foster new ties – and re-establish those lost during the pandemic – in a meaningful, ongoing and individualised way. It is through these ties that we will be able to establish and embed an ambitious and exciting cultural offer for our pupils, supporting them to become truly ACE!