

Squirrel Class Visit to Iver Environment Centre 27th June 2025

A real highlight of the term in Squirrel Class (Year 1/2) was our enriching visit to Iver Environment Centre on Wednesday. The day offered a high-quality outdoor learning experience that extended and deepened our Science and Geography curriculum. As an Eco School, we seek to develop children's understanding of the natural world and their role in caring for it; this trip provided an ideal opportunity to bring those values to life.



Curriculum Intent in Action

The visit was designed to strengthen children's knowledge of *living things and their habitats* (Science) and to enhance their understanding of *physical features, environmental stewardship, and local fieldwork skills* (Geography). All activities were hands-on, enquiry-based, and carefully matched to the learning needs of Year 1 and 2 pupils. Throughout the day, children were encouraged to observe, question, and think scientifically.

Pond Dipping – Scientific Enquiry & Habitat Exploration

Our pond-dipping session allowed pupils to investigate a freshwater habitat first-hand. Using nets, trays and magnifiers, the children identified pond life such as water beetles, snails, and other invertebrates.

This activity:

- supported Working Scientifically objectives: observation, classifying, predicting, and comparing
- introduced vocabulary such as *habitat, species, life cycle, and adaptation*
- encouraged children to ask questions and seek answers through real investigation
- demonstrated positive learning behaviours such as curiosity, resilience, respect of wildlife



Mini Beast Hunt – Fieldwork Skills & Microhabitat Investigation

Children explored a range of microhabitats including leaf litter, logs, and grassland. Working collaboratively, they used identification keys and magnifiers to locate and classify minibeasts.

Linked curriculum outcomes included:

- recognising that different habitats meet the needs of different animals
- understanding how environmental features influence living organisms
- practising Geography fieldwork skills (observing, recording, comparing environments)
- experiencing the awe and wonder of discovering wildlife in its natural setting



Building Bug Hotels – Eco-School Principles in Practice

A stand-out moment for many pupils was the chance to build their own bug hotels. Using natural and recycled materials, they designed and constructed miniature habitats to take home.

This task provided evidence of:

- sustainability education and environmental responsibility
- cross-curricular links between Science, Geography, and Design & Technology
- problem-solving, critical thinking, and creativity
- understanding how to protect and encourage biodiversity



Enjoyment, Engagement & Wellbeing

After a full day of exploring, the play area proved incredibly popular. This offered valuable time for physical activity, social interaction, and imaginative play- key elements of pupil wellbeing and positive behaviour development.

Staff noted:

- high levels of engagement throughout the day
- excellent behaviour and respect for nature
- children supporting one another and collaborating effectively
- sustained curiosity and enthusiasm, even during challenging tasks



Impact of the Visit

By the end of the trip, pupils had:

- strengthened their scientific understanding of living things and habitats
- developed practical fieldwork skills
- increased awareness of environmental responsibility (Eco-School values)
- demonstrated collaboration, resilience, and enquiry-based thinking
- gained cultural capital through real-world experiences beyond the classroom



The visit clearly contributed to a broad, ambitious curriculum while also supporting the personal development of every child.