

Year OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) Legacy project Summer 2026

Every year at Bampton Primary, the Year 6 complete a Legacy Project. This year we had some help from Volker-Fitzpatrick and Keaveney Group, two construction companies that are redeveloping the Brize Norton runway. With their help, and some direction from Miss Phillips (our Headteacher), we were tasked with creating a landscaping project. We decided to dig up a bit of marshy land in the school and make a nice garden for everyone to enjoy.

In our first session, we had to work out the area, perimeter and volume of the space using a tape measure. To work out the perimeter, we had to add 2 metres width to 10 metres length and times it by 2. This made our perimeter 24 metres. We then multiplied the 2 metres width by 10 metres length to find the area. We found an area of 20 metres squared. Finally, we had to measure the depth of some of the holes and use the previous information to find the volume. The depth was half a metre. So, we had to do $10 \times 2 \times 0.5 = 10$ metres cubed.



Firstly, in the afternoon, the three girls from Volker-Fitzpatrick and Keaveney group helped us to understand different roles and responsibilities on a construction site. Then, after that, we played a game of guess the skill, where the leaders said a job role and we had to go to the subjects we thought influenced that job; but you could have more than one answer. Soon the project had to come to life. We all now understood the roles we would take and what we needed to do to be safe.

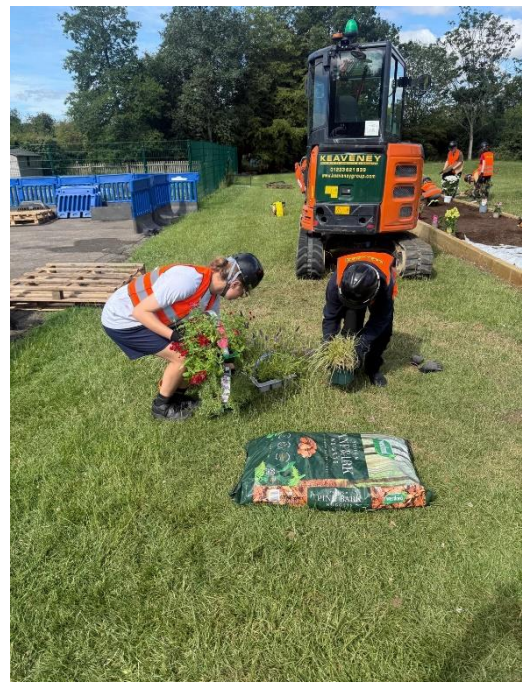
In session 2 we discussed sustainability, durability and affordability of materials to be used. Some of the materials listed were: boulders, rocks, gravel, shingle, wood, plants and a couple of other bits. The most durable item listed was the boulders. The most affordable thing listed was the soil. The most sustainable thing listed was the boulders, rocks and shingle because they weren't alive and needed no care whatsoever.

We were split into groups of 2 to 3 and asked to design our own landscaped garden. We were given templates and had to draw our designs within them. Once all of the designs were finished, we presented our ideas to the class and had to say one feature that we liked the most. The overwhelming majority wanted a range of plants, a water feature, bug hotel and gravel path running through the middle.



For this project we had to learn about PPE. PPE stands for Protective Personal Equipment. We had to wear a helmet, gloves and high-vis that Keaveney provided and allowed us to keep, which was cool. The hi-vis fit most of us perfectly but on the two taller children, they were like crop tops. The gloves were too tight and made our fingers look like sausages!

On Thursday morning we started the build. The two days before, we had diggers on site preparing the patch of land we would be working on. They placed a boarder made of wooden sleepers and began to fill the area with soil. When we arrived, we put on our PPE, which included: hard hats, hi-vis jackets and boots. Then we started on the bug hotels. Inside, it had wooden pallets as supports, bark shavings, grass and leaves as a fun filling. On top of the bug hotel was two bird houses and a wooden roof. While the hotel was being built, people picked their own rocks, wrote their names, and began to decorate them. Halfway through the morning, Keaveney group returned with more soil. And filled the rest of the area allowing us to start planting. Once the soil was set up, we were given pebbles to lay a small path through the centre of the space, leading from one end to the bug hotel. Not even half way through, we ran out of pebbles and had to switch to using slate. We then added a few touches and headed off to lunch.



In the afternoon we signed each other's helmets with acrylic pen so that we could take them home. We also applied our finishing touches and added a slide to our bug hotel. Finally, we watered the plants. Each plant needed about half a watering can of water because it was sooo dry.



We are going to leave the school proud and confident that we have created a lasting, floral legacy for animals and children to all enjoy. The most loved part of the project was signing the helmets and stones as it helped us to leave our names on the school site for years to come. Many of us also enjoyed making the bug hotel too. The most exciting part for everyone though, was when the digger came to help us excavate the grounds. We found two 90-year-old horse shoes doing this – and got to sit inside the digger's cab. There were a lot of people who wanted to change the bug hotel. Some felt it was too big and wanted it smaller. So, to make everyone happy, we built a second hotel at the other end!

We really appreciate that Abi, Fran and Grace came to help us plan and complete the project. They made it really enjoyable. – Freya.

Thank you Fran, Abi, Grace, Volker-Fitzpatrick and Keaveny group for giving your time to come and make our school a better place. – Ruby

I'm really proud of the legacy project. It was really fun building everything. – Riley

It was great to get out with nature and plant some flowers for everyone to enjoy. – Evie.

It was good to get muddy and do something different to school work – Isla.

Written by Owl Class (Year 6)