

# Spotlight On....

## SOCIAL EMOTIONAL and MENTAL HEALTH & THE HAVEN Sensory Garden



### The Vision...

The vision was to create a sensory garden by building an environment that stimulates the senses through plants, the use of materials and different textures to enable our children to feel grounded within their surroundings. The purpose of the garden is to facilitate outdoor learning for all children and provide a calming space for mentoring, coaching and interventions as well as providing our children with an area to promote wellbeing and positivity.

### Bringing the vision to life...

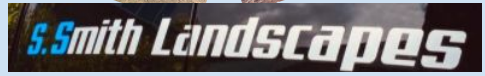
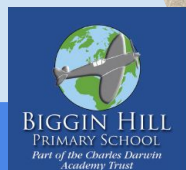
Wellbeing has developed into a huge part of Biggin Hill Primary School and the welfare of our children is a passion shared by our staff and parents alike. This has been demonstrated through the commitment and dedication shown in developing The Haven - which was no easy task!

From ripping out what felt like miles of ivy to cleaning, scrubbing and repairing the biodome, moving and painting furniture to sourcing pots and plants, the team were definitely put through their paces! Thankfully the weather was on our side and we were able to hit the ground running with the transformation happening thick and fast.

I would love to be able to take credit for the development of the garden however this really is not possible! Mrs Sargeant and Mrs Helps have taken the reins since our return to school and they have changed the garden from simply being a place for plants and bushes into an area for the children to enjoy. There is an array of colours, bubbles, stepping stones, covered areas, different seating and my favourite finishing touch - the wooden signs! They have ensured that there is an area inside the biodome for children to sit and learn as well as the story area under the tree. It has been a pleasure to see The Haven being used by all age groups and the smiles of the children prove that it really is a happy place to be.

Teaching staff are working hard to plan the use of The Haven into our already enriched curriculum so that all of our children can enjoy using this space.

We celebrated the official opening of The Haven on Thursday 1st October, with our House and Vice House Captains, ready to be used during Mental Health Week.



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## Thank You To....

There are so many contributors who have made the development of the sensory garden possible and helped us to grow our provision around Wellbeing and Social, Emotional and Mental Health. The Haven will provide *a safe place for all*.

Our heartfelt thanks to:

***B R Stacey Fencing for donating the labour and most wonderful fences and gate***

***Mr Smith of S Smith Landscapes for laying the sensory path and groundwork to the reading area***

***Aaron Parsons, Jewson (Kenley) for donation of materials to develop the story area and sensory path***

***Knights Garden Centre, Warlingham, for their kind voucher and 10% off purchases***

***Mr and Mrs Toop for a donation towards the garden***

***The Blossie family for creating and seeding the wildflower areas to the front***

***Miss Rudd for donating plants***

***The Parker family for purchasing and donating paint to brighten up our garden***

***Oliver Rooney for being so very helpful***

*and*

**Our wonderful staff for volunteering their time and lovely donations of plants and sensory items. A very special mention to Mrs Johnson for making the beautiful Biggin Hill Primary School bunting and Mrs Windover for decorating the fence!**

*Your kindness is appreciated by everyone at Biggin Hill Primary School*

***Mrs Lawrence***

*Assistant Headteacher & Inclusion Lead* [k.lawrence@bigginhillps.com](mailto:k.lawrence@bigginhillps.com)



***The Haven is a safe place for all***

