giving nature a home
England

Friday 14th January 2021.

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to let you know that *St Thomas More Catholic Primary School* will be participating in a research project funded and lead by the RSPB (the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds). This is an exciting opportunity for the school to receive professional support and access quality resources from a well-respected nature and conservation-focussed organisation. It comes at a key time, where education providers recognise the importance of spending time outdoors on both mental and physical well-being. Similarly, increasing scientific research highlights the benefits of engaging in learning outdoors on a child's long-term memory, behaviour and attainment.

The Curriculum for Nature Programme will be delivered by the NCCB (Naturally Connect Communities Birmingham) a team within the RPSB. A key element is to deliver development training that will give teachers additional tools and confidence to take more of their core curriculum teaching outside and into nature. As part of the research and evaluation process, teachers will be asking their students some simple questions about their connection to nature before and after their outdoor learning. This will help measure the level of impact the increased outdoor-based learning has on children's connectedness to nature and how students feel about the natural world. Subsequent impacts would hopefully include improved well-being and opportunities to effectively use this enhanced connectivity in their daily lives.

Data and Permissions: Any data utilised by the RSPB will remain anonymous and responses will not be associated with your child's name or personal details. Rather, each child will be given an identification number which cannot subsequently be related back to any specific individual. Teachers will be completing case studies and may include photographs, but this will be in line with your child's permissions collected by school and all quotes will be generalised. You will have the option to opt out of the research and for your child not to participate and should inform their teacher if this is the case. Your child will still engage in the learning but will not form part of the research.

Should you have any questions at any time during or after the study, please contact the Project Manager: charlotte.trigg@rspb.org.uk. Similarly, if you would like to find out more about the RSPB in your area or activities you can get involved with as a family, then visit How to get involved with the RSPB.

We hope you will appreciate the significance and potential impact of this partnership on the school, your child and their learning environment and thank you for your anticipated support.

Yours sincerely,

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RSPB England

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BirdLife INTERNATIONAL
The RSPB is part of BirdLife International, a partnership of conservation organisations working to give nature a home around the world.

Patron: Her Majesty the Queen **Chairman of Council:** Kevin Cox **President:** Miranda Krestovnikoff
Chairman, Committee for England: Jennifer Ullman **Director, RSPB England:** Emma Marsh
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