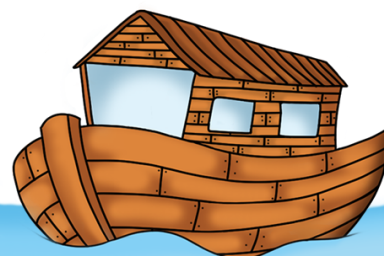


The Nature Space - Stutton C of E Primary School

Date	16.06.2026
Project Lead	Holly Milgate
Funds secured	£5150.00 from Stutton Parish Council £ 3253.26 from Griff Rhys Jones fundraiser
Funds total to date	£8403.26
Tipi quote	Tipi Package Cost: £6,200 plus VAT (£7440) Installation: £400 plus VAT (£480) Total cost: £7920.00 Obtaining quote for some additional flooring (Rola Trac) to preserve the flooring of the tipi. Any additional cost will be covered by the school/PTFA.
Tipi details	10m tipi 



	The tipi will be situated within school grounds towards the back corner away from roads. There is already an established nature and growing space in this area of the school, so this lends itself to our further planting to create this well-being, multipurpose space.
School	Stutton Church of England Primary School Holbrook Road Stutton, Suffolk, IP9 2RY 01473 328531
Our school	At Stutton Church of England Primary School we are lucky to benefit from a beautiful outside green space which is part of the Shotley peninsula a short walk from Alton Water Reservoir. It attracts a variety of wildlife such as buzzards, hare, red kites and slow worms which enables us to enhance the children's learning opportunities and increase their interest and love for nature and conserving it. It is through this interest that some of the KS2 children have sought opportunities for them to support the conservation efforts within the local community, organising their own litter picks both within the school grounds and wider community. Hopefully demonstrating just the start of what could be achieved with our proposed project.
Project outline	<u>The Nature Space</u> The proposed project consists of purchasing a tipi tent to create a space that can be used all year round for prayer, connecting with others and the great outdoors, engaging with spirituality, wellness and meeting sensory needs. The school has 35% of children with special educational needs, which is above the national average. This has increased by 11% since starting this project in 2024, highlighting how valuable this project is. <u>Why a Tipi is the Right Choice</u> As Stutton is situated within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), we believe a tipi is a sympathetic and aesthetically pleasing choice. Here is why:

- Environmental Harmony: A Tipi offers an organic silhouette that blends seamlessly into a nature space
- The "Wilderness" Experience: A Tipi provides a pseudo-wilderness environment where children can truly immerse themselves in the outdoors. It fosters a sense of wonder that encourages them to become lifelong caretakers of our world.
- Community Pride: This unique structure will be a point of pride for the Stutton community, reflecting our commitment to preserving the natural character of our village.

The project also includes developing the surrounding area to encourage wildlife into the school and to create an oasis pupils and the community can use to improve their mental health and well-being.

Why do we need this? What can't we do currently?

Particularly post covid, part of our continued work is to support and engage children with spirituality, mindfulness and wellbeing, especially through nature and our Christian ethos. As a church school we are seeking to manage this considerable project to both enable children to manage their holistic care - body, mind and spirit - and continue to foster a love for the great outdoors and understanding around conservation.

Currently there is not enough space in the flourishing school to provide this education. The school is in desperate need of an extra area to provide this vital support for the children and community. In the last five years the school numbers have increased from 28 pupils to 75 but with no extra funding provided to accommodate this growth.

As we know, AONBs are landscapes for nature and people and as part of our project we hope to achieve a beautiful, nature-rich space that the children - and where appropriate wider community - can connect with their spirituality and improve well-being. The school takes the mental health of the pupils very seriously and works with Suffolk Mind to enable children to learn to talk

about and take care of their own mental health and to better understand how to help those around them.

Through this project we also hope to educate and highlight the need for conservation and to enhance natural beauty and encourage the children to understand how the 'outside world' is a place to enjoy and appreciate, all helping to build a sustainable future for a generation that cares.

As a church school we talk a lot about belonging and the need for community and through this project we hope to create a community where they have a sense of place both within school and when outside in nature.

This space would also be used to develop further links with the local community including the established conservation group Stutton Grows, the Stutton Young Explorers nursery and Pilates classes. It would also enhance our current Forest School provision which has had a huge impact on the children of the school.

We all appreciate that connecting with the outdoors at all times of the year offers incredible rewards. This space would be surrounded by wildlife conservation opportunities for the children to engage in as part of their mindfulness time, as well as a fantastic outdoor education area. The space would be used by the children, staff, volunteers and families of the school, and where appropriate the wider community.

What impact will it have for the school and community?

While the primary function of the proposed tipi will be to enhance day-to-day learning for the children at Stutton School, the project has been intentionally designed to serve as a valuable asset for the wider Stutton community. The school is committed to sharing this unique space, providing access to local groups like the Stutton Young Explorers. Furthermore, the tipi will host community-focused events organised by the school—such as our annual Christmas wreath-making workshops—and will be proudly offered to Stutton Church to support alternative, nature-focused services for milestones like the Harvest Festival. By creating a warm, inclusive hub where the church congregation,

local families, and friends can gather, this addition will directly benefit both the pupils of Stutton School and the broader village community.

The space would have multiple purposes including a prayer room, sensory area, Suffolk Mind sessions, ELSA sessions, Forest Schools, conservation studies, yoga, mindfulness and library. This would also be a space intended for outreach work with the church, building relationships within the community.

In the surrounding area we will have bird boxes and feeding tables, bat boxes, hedgehog houses, minibeast houses, water feature (with solar panel), sensory plants (lavender, rosemary, sweetpeas etc), wildflower garden, climbers, hanging baskets, planters, picnic benches, fruit trees, fencing, windchimes, magnifying glasses and bug investigating equipment. We also hope to build on our previous vegetable plot success and forest school sessions.

The wildlife trust state "children's wellbeing increased after they had spent time connecting with nature: the children showed an increase in their personal wellbeing and health over time, and they showed an increase in nature connection and demonstrated high levels of enjoyment.

- 90% of children felt they learned something new about the natural world
- 79% felt that their experience could help their school work
- After their activities 84% of children felt that they were capable of doing new things when they tried
- 79% of children reported feeling more confident in themselves
- 81% agreed that they had better relationships with their teachers
- 79% reported better relationships with their class-mates"

