



AMONG THE TREES NEWSLETTER



Fire Circles, Squares and Triangles

Our Tuesday and Friday cohorts have enjoyed fires, learning about the Fire Triangle, types of fuel, how to start and maintain a fire and how to set a fire lay. The most enjoyable part was getting to toast marshmallows over an open fire!



Heaving Line Toss

A fun game we have trialled this term has been Heaving Line Toss. This game requires players to throw a heaving line to try and hit the target. It was an instant hit with the children allowing for a fun and practical use for a popular nautical knot.



Our First Full Term

As we come to the end of our first full term of Forest Club, we pause to reflect our progress and successes.

Two Forest Club sessions have now grown to three, with Monday Forest Club starting after half term. With a younger group of learners, we are taking our time to get acquainted with how we do Forest Club and having fun along the way. Our more established Tuesday and Friday clubs are continuing to thrive, experiencing open fires and tool work.

The Lostock Hall PTA have kindly put us forward for some funding from the Poynton Round Table which would enable us to purchase some equipment to further enhance our Forest Club offering. Fingers crossed for a good outcome.

Learners continue to enjoy free play where they choose and direct their activity: tying ropes, digging for worms, making their own games making art and building shelters.

AWESOME!





They Said What???

Time, space and outdoor play are essential to children's health. In fact, they need this more than ever.

Angela Hanscom

Nature play is not another thing to shove into the crevices of an already overloaded schedule. A childhood built upon nature play is a different way to do childhood altogether.

Ginny Yurich

We should encourage children to be as active as possible

David Elkind

Life has loveliness to sell, all beautiful and splendid things, blue waves, whitened on a cliff, soaring fire that sways and sings, and children's faces looking up, *holding wonder like a cup.*

Sara Teasdale

And finally, a lovely testimonial...

"What a great idea for the children to be outdoors and to learn about how to care for our land. My son absolutely loves his session with Among the Trees. Matt is brilliant with the children and always makes the sessions fun and interactive. I'd highly recommend this company."

One of the theorists underpinning Forest School practice is Mortlock, who helps us understand the Zones of Risk and why they are important in learning new skills through supported risk taking in a FS environment.

Zone 1 is the Comfort Zone. Learning doesn't really happen here and it's where we are safe and secure.

Zone 2 is the Play Zone. This is where we can show, develop and practice the skills that we have learn. We operate in and out of this zone.

Zone 3 is the Frontier Zone. This is where a large majority of our learning takes place. It's outside our comfort zone and often causes us to pause or think before attempting a task. What we learn in this zone is taken back and practiced in our play zone. To keep learning, we need regular visits to the Frontier Zone.

Zone 4 is the Misadventure Zone. This is where accidents and mishaps occur and should not be visited due to the lack of support or understanding to operate safely.

Risk benefit analysis weighs the risk of an activity verses the benefit gained from doing the activity. Where the benefits outweigh the risk, we will include the activity in a session.

