

AMONG THE TREES NEWSLETTER

New Logo

We have recently commissioned a new logo for ATT that reflects our woodland and outdoor focus into a more formal and recognisable icon. The logs form the initials of ATT and our motto of 'where good things grow' and name are incorporated. Keep an eye out for special merchandise coming soon.



Popping Popcorn

In February, we got popping and made campfire popcorn over the fire. It was very well received on a cold day as we impatiently waited for our kernels to pop! Everyone had a go at either helping pour oil, tip in popcorn or have a shake of the pan over the fire. There's not much better than the smell of fresh popcorn on an open fire, especially topped with sugar or salt.



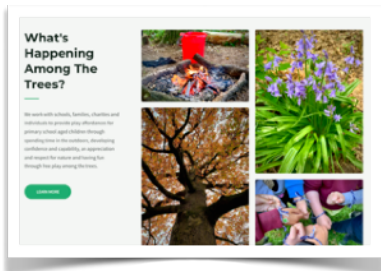
Spring Observations

As I write, we are on the verge of exciting changes in the woodland! Spring is in process, with plants, trees and some animals rejoining the waking world. We have observed numerous shoots, leaves and buds ready to burst forth with new growth and the start of warmer sunnier days, or at least the hope of them.

Observation is an important skill we work on at Forest Club. From looking to listening, our learners are encouraged to notice what is going on in the world around them. We also have an 'observation station' where different kinds of binoculars are available to scan the woodland. Bird nests and trees are favourites. There is also the occasional bit of spy work undertaken, keeping a close eye on each other and the leader!

What changes have you noticed going on in your neighbourhood? Watching and observing these changes helps our young people to learn about the cycles of the seasons and take notice of what is happening around them.





ATT Website

Have you visited our website? Full of helpful info, inspiration and online booking for events, visit amongthetrees.uk to find out more.



Wooly Good Craft

In the lead up to Mother's Day, our learners made some star shaped wool wraps on plywood as gifts. Everyone chose their preferred colour(s) and after securing to one of the nails, proceeded to wrap. Wrapping and keeping tension on the yarn is trickier than it looks. However, everyone made a great effort, demonstrating perseverance and creativity, while improving their fine motor control. We hope all the mums are thrilled with their gifts, because you're all stars in our eyes!



Funding For Forest School

Last year we applied for some funding through the PTA from Poynton Round Table. After a long wait, we found out that we were successful in gaining some funding. Amazing! The money has been spent and we'd love to update you on what's been achieved.

Digging Area

The majority of the funding was spent on purchasing soil and building a dedicated digging area. This helps to keep the soil 'contained' and also in the longer term promote greater biodiversity with new earthworms taking up residence, slugs and other decomposers inhabiting the surrounds and the occasional visiting bird in search of a feed. The area is made of railway type sleepers, assembled from a kit. The dirt is clean and filtered to a high level, ensuring there's no surprises getting through.

Additional items.

We were also able to purchase two junior rakes for learners to use while digging or on other projects.

The most exciting purchase being a long-handled popcorn maker we can use over the fire. Learners absolutely loved making campfire popcorn (see page 1) and the process of going from raw kernels with a bit of oil to a pan bursting at the seams with fresh, tasty popcorn. It smelled like a smokey cinema.

These items have allowed us to provide enriching opportunities and experiences for our learners that will hopefully build their own confidence and shared experiences with others. These experiences can cross over into every day life, what I like to call life links. With popcorn, it could be learning to safely handle food around hot surfaces (such as stoves or ovens).

If you have any ideas for funding or fundraising that can help us grow our Forest School offering for Lostock, then please let me know. Our next potential project is to replace the seating around the fire circle, providing safe and comfortable seating.

