



PRESS RELEASE

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Snow fun like tree planting

Thelwall kids mucked in to plant trees at a local park last week, as snow blanketed Warrington.

Year 2 youngsters from Thelwall Infants School planted hedgerow trees alongside the edge of the playing area at Barley Road Park, as part of the next stage of the park's transformation.

Barley Road Park is being redeveloped to include a natural play area, which will feature mushroom stools, stepping rocks, a willow dome and secret passageways, all made from natural materials.

Earlier in the planting season, children from Thelwall Infants also took part in bulb-planting at the site.

Councillor Louise Fernyhough from Thelwall & Grappenhall Parish Council, who has been driving the project forward, said: "It's wonderful to get local children involved in the improvements to the park, which will encourage them to benefit from natural play – and what better way to achieve that than in the snow!"

Alison Rostron, Head Teacher at Thelwall Infants School, said: "We're keen to encourage the children to be outdoors as much as possible. This winter, every class at the school has got involved in tree or bulb planting in some way – whether it's helping to improve Barley Road Park, or planting our school woodland, where we plan to hold outdoor classes."

Thelwall and Grappenhall Parish Council have commissioned the project, which is being coordinated by The Mersey Forest. It is being funded via a Lottery Awards for All grant of £10,000, which was secured by the Parish Council.

With tree-planting season in full swing, The Mersey Forest is helping over 70 schools and community groups to plant trees as part of the Big Tree Plant this winter.

ENDS

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Notes to editors:

The Mersey Forest

The Mersey Forest is a growing network of woodlands and green spaces spread across Cheshire and Merseyside, which has been creating 'woodlands on your doorstep' for 20 years.

The Forest is one of the leading environmental regeneration initiatives in the North West. Through community and partnership working, we have planted more than 8 million trees - equivalent to five new trees for every person living within the Forest area.

The Forest helps our towns and cities adapt to climate change and has won the Brian Redhead Award for Environmental Sustainability, creates woodlands that 20% of local people visit at least once a week, and by improving the image of our towns and cities sets the scene for growth within the region's £98 billion economy.

We achieve all of this and more through our partnership of local authorities, landowners, the Forestry Commission, Natural England and businesses including United Utilities.

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