



Press Release | 27 February 2014

## **Fox Wood and Green Lane pupils sow the seeds**

Pupils from Fox Wood School have been setting the scene for a greener future on their new campus in Woolston, Warrington.

The pupils took part in a tree-planting day to help create two woodland areas on the new Special Educational Needs campus, which is being developed on the grounds of the former Woolston High School. The site will be shared by Fox Wood School and Green Lane School.

It is envisaged that the woodlands will be used for outdoor lessons as part of a Forest School programme at the school once they mature. Forest School is a child-led learning concept that can help youngsters learn basic practical skills, plus teamwork and emotional intelligence skills within a woodland setting.

It is also anticipated that one of the woodlands will be made fully accessible to pupils with the addition of new footpaths, conditional upon additional fundraising.

The woodland project is being funded by the Big Tree Plant and Woodland Trust and coordinated by The Mersey Forest.

Ms Nicholls, Head Teacher of Fox Wood School, said: "The development of the school woodland ties in perfectly with our move from Birchwood to the Woolston campus, which should be completed during the next academic year.

"The trees set the scene for a new start for Fox Wood and Green Lane, where pupils will be able to spend more time outside and learn about the environment in their own school woodlands."

Jo Sayers, Community Development Officer at The Mersey Forest, said: “We want to make Merseyside and North Cheshire one of the best places in the country to live, and this year we’re planting thousands of trees across the region to achieve this vision as part of the Big Tree Plant.”

## **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.  
[www.merseyforest.org.uk](http://www.merseyforest.org.uk)

#### **Big Tree Plant**

The Big Tree Plant is a national campaign that helps people and communities across England to plant more trees where they live and work. Our target is to plant 1 million additional trees by April 2015.

Details of the campaign can be found at: [www.direct.gov.uk/thebigtreeplant](http://www.direct.gov.uk/thebigtreeplant)  
The campaign has the support of major bodies including Defra and the Forestry Commission, environmental charities and other agencies including England's Community Forests and the Woodland Trust