



Press Release | 4 February 2015

Pupils kickstart new mini-woodland

Pupils at Cheshire Day Nursery in Latchford, Warrington, have kick-started the development of a new mini woodland in their front garden.

Four-year-old tots were supervised by teachers and The Mersey Forest team as they planted willow and hazel trees in the area, which will be used to host Forest School sessions in future.

Forest School – a method of outdoor learning which helps children to reconnect with nature and learn about the natural environment – is already well-established at the nursery, but sessions are currently limited to the three mature trees in the garden.

The project is being coordinated by nursery staff and The Mersey Forest (www.merseyforest.org.uk) and the trees were funded by Big Tree Plant.

Susan Hemy, Early Years Professional at Cheshire Day Nursery, said: “Forest School is an important part of our curriculum. The sessions help to improve children’s confidence, interpersonal skills and knowledge of the natural world. The new trees will enhance our Forest School area, enabling nursery staff to harvest den-building materials in future sessions.”

Jo Sayers, Community Development Officer at The Mersey Forest, said: “It was great to see the kids getting involved with the planting day – they really enjoyed it and the new trees will greatly improve their Forest School area.”

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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 more than 20 years.

The Forest is one of the leading environmental regeneration initiatives in the North West. Through community and partnership working, we have planted 9 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, 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, the Environment Agency and businesses.

www.merseyforest.org.uk

Big Tree Plant

The Big Tree Plant campaign brings together civil society partners and conservation organisations, such as The Tree Council, Woodland Trust, Trees for Cities, England's Community Forests and Keep Britain Tidy among others, working with Defra and the Forestry Commission.

Please see the campaign website for more information:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/bigtreeplant/>

