



Press Release | 24 February 2015

## **LJMU students and St Albert's pupils dig in**

Students from Liverpool John Moores University have been lending a hand at St Albert's Primary School to help pupils transform their outdoor learning space.

The students teamed up with pupils of the Knowsley school and members of The Mersey Forest team to plant over 50 trees and hundreds of bulbs in the school grounds.

Once the trees have grown a little bit taller, the area will be used to host Forest School sessions. The school currently use Little Wood, a nearby woodland, for Forest School, which helps children to develop outdoor skills and learn about their natural environment.

It's not the first time that the school and university have worked together. LJMU students learn about the creation of nearby Mab Lane Community Woodland as part of their course, the support from local community group, The Littlewoods of Stockbridge Association, and also observe how St Albert's use woodland spaces to deliver Forest School classes.

The project to create the new school woodland is being coordinated by St Albert's staff and The Mersey Forest ([www.merseyforest.org.uk](http://www.merseyforest.org.uk)) and the trees were funded by Big Tree Plant.

Lorraine McEvoy, Head Teacher at St Albert's Primary, said: "All children at St Alberts are offered the chance to take part in Forest School, which has many

benefits for children, including boosting confidence and social skills. We're very much looking forward to having our own school woodland for this purpose and can't wait for the trees to grow!"

Jo Sayers, Community Development Officer at The Mersey Forest, said: "It was great to see the students and children working together to bring the school woodland to life."

## **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 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](http://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/>

**ForeStClim**

ForeStClim brings together a wide range of experts from the United Kingdom and other countries in Europe to work on issues relating to climate change and forestry. This project has received European Regional Development Funding through Interreg IVB.

