



Children's Forest

Planting Report

NOVEMBER 21 - 23 2022

**THE HEUGH, BRAMPTON,
CUMBRIA**





CHILDREN: 42

Ages: 5 - 11

Irthington Village School



TREES: 150

- ❖ Hawthorn
- ❖ Hazel
- ❖ Birch
- ❖ Rowan
- ❖ Field Maple
- ❖ Oak
- ❖ Crab Apple



GUARDIANSHIP

Land Guardian: Lulu Guinness

Community Guardian: Alison Clarricoats

FACILITATION

Facilitators: Anna Richardson, Lulu Guinness, Chloe Dichmont

THE CHILDREN'S FOREST APPROACH

A four step journey that supports a meaningful connection to tree planting and the existing ecosystem; that activates future generational thinking and supports children to take hopeful action in the face of climate change.



1. EXPERIENCING

By engaging in embodied experience in woodlands through Forest School, we support Children to develop genuine care and personal relationship with the natural world.

2. IMAGINING

Their time in the woods enables the children to look out over the land and imagine future forests. Through the creative arts, they engage with the vision of woodland that they will plant.



3.PLANTING

As they plant the trees, the children plant their wishes for the future generations: ‘that these trees grow big and strong’ ‘that all the animals will have a home,’ ‘that squirrels will live in the branches of the trees’.



The children put their wishes into the trees as they planted them in the earth. Native trees were carefully chosen to best suit the land. They were inoculated with forest soil, or the “mycelium telephone” and protected with tree guards.

4.TENDING

We planted our woodland around a central Children’s Fire. There the children will continue to gather in years to come, returning in the summer to tend the trees and conduct surveys.



OUR FUTURE FOREST



The oak and silver birch sway in the cold air.
The birds are tweeting in the branches
and the wind is rushing with a howling sound.

The trees are full of blossoms
and the butterflies are dancing.
The wind blows through the emerging grass,
there are berries as bright as the stars.

Animals roam across the forest
there are many tall trees
shining in the sun.

The trees give us lots of oxygen.

Otters of the water...

Otters of the wild.

You can hear the sounds of insects crawling on
the leaves
and the quiet wind going through the trees.

In the forest lives a great white stag.

Sounds of birds sing in the trees.

Rivers moves elegantly.

Otters swim like the waves.

The trees are beautiful and green.

In the forest a hobby lives.

The trees are beautiful,
snow falling silently through their branches.

You can hear tigers purring as they prowl.
There are lots of lizards crawling in the trees.

Otters enjoy the world.

There's a lot of wood ants gnawing at the wood.

Flowers are shivering,
Bees are collecting pollen from the flowers.

By Class 2, ages 7-9

QUOTES FROM THE CHILDREN

“I think the deer is sprinkling magic over the Children’s Forest”.

“I am waiting for the worm to read my wish”

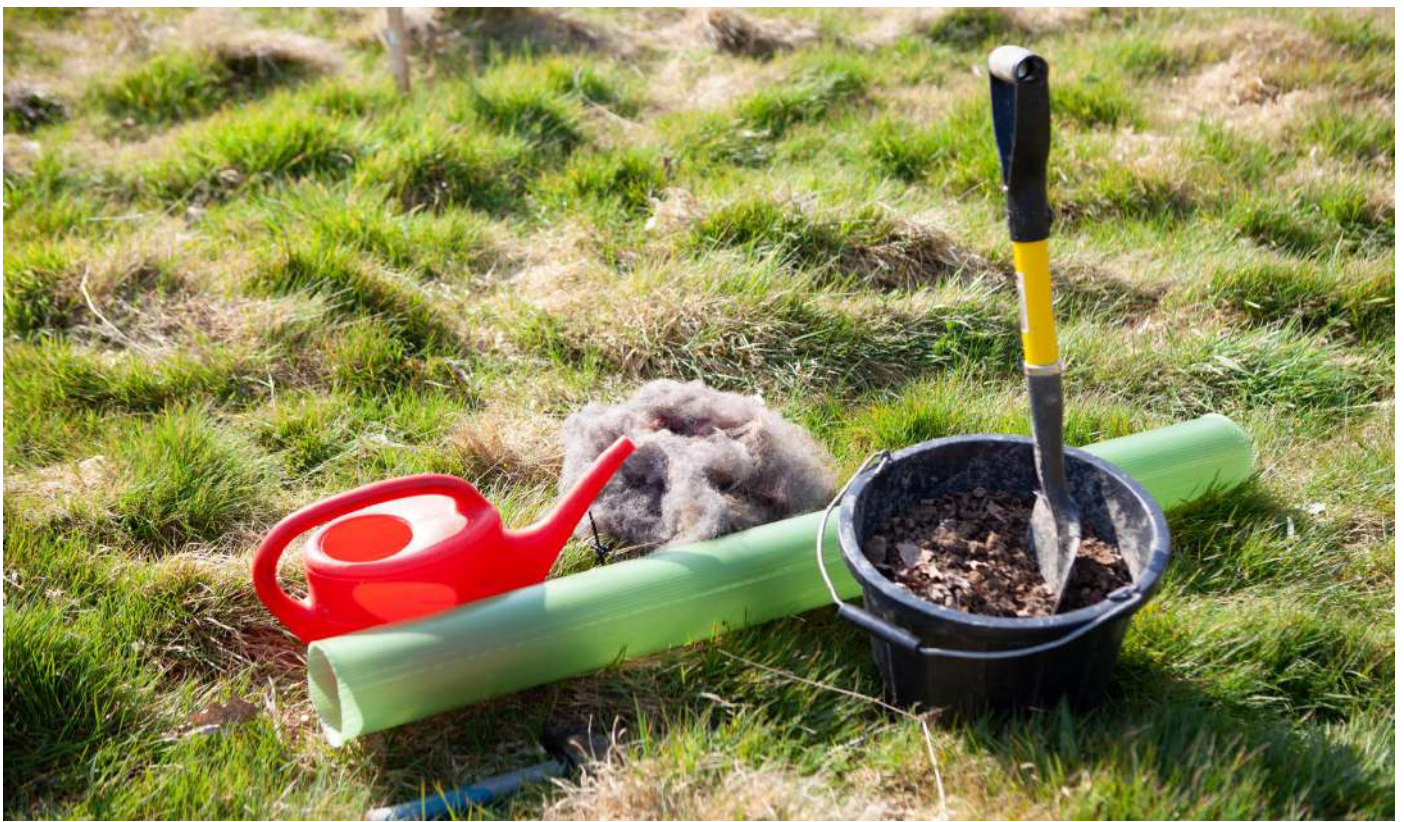


“I see nature has a big heart too”

“For me it’s been peaceful and tranquil: I have really enjoyed being outside”
~ Mr H (Class 3 Teacher)



At The Heugh the children received nature names and played games, sung songs and lit the fire. They learned how to walk silently and visited the ancient woodland where they made friends with the trees. They created a tiny forest, heard stories and crafted animals with clay. They imagined they were seeds growing into trees, and then planted their own Children’s Forest. And so much more! They were joyful, connected, lit up by the experience and looking forward to returning to see their trees in leaf.



PLANTING & TENDING

The saplings were planted 2m apart, in swathes arcing outwards from the central Childrens Fire. This design allows for maximum edge habitat in order to support the greatest biodiversity. Tree guards and stakes were used as deer and vole protection. The trees were supplied by the Land Guardian and the whole planting project was funded by C-Level and [Brampton2Zero](#).

Over the past 2 years we have been planting and tending the Children's Forest at The Heugh with children from the local area, we look forward to welcoming the Irthington pupils and their families into the fold of the Children's Fire.



CONTACT INFO

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Many Thanks for Your Support!

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