



# O.W.L Spring 2013 Newsletter

Hello Everyone!

Welcome to the first edition of the OWL Newsletter !

In this newsletter we have shown what has been planned as direct result of your feedback in the Autumn Term network meetings.

We have done our best to include information which you will find useful to help you develop some amazing Outdoor Learning opportunities for children.

## David Armstrong - Outdoor Education Adviser

David is the BMBC Outdoor Education Adviser. He is responsible for advice, guidance and support for educational visits and activities for all schools and educational settings supported by BMBC across the age range in children's services. This work involves providing information, training and risk management support, and supporting educational visits co-ordinators in schools and other settings. It includes managing the Evolve online visits system, providing LA approval for visits where necessary, and developing new opportunities for outdoor learning and off-site visits. It also includes supporting colleagues operating outdoor initiatives such as Outdoor Woodland Learning and Forest Schools.

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You said...

We did.....

**You would like a regular newsletter**

We have created a termly newsletter

**You would like termly meetings**

Meetings have been arranged for the spring term venues, times and dates are as follows:

If you wish to attend any of these twilights, please e-mail Julie Smith stating the date, venue and number of places required.

[juliesmith1@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:juliesmith1@barnsley.gov.uk)

*As the sessions are outdoors, please ensure you come suitably dressed and be prepared that you might get dirty!*

- Darton Primary Thursday 14.3.13  
4:00pm-5:30pm.
- Little Acorns Monday 18.3.13  
6:00pm-7:00pm
- Darfield Upperwood Tuesday 19.3.13  
4:30pm-6:00pm

**You would like opportunities to visits other settings to share practice**

Venues will showcase what they do outdoors at the above meetings

**You would like more support and information relating to risk assessment**

Information on Risk Assessments/ procedures will be discussed at the meetings

## Outdoor Woodland Learning Childminders and Playworkers

26<sup>th</sup> July we ran a day at Silverwood for childminders and afterschool clubs which had a focus on Forest Schools ethos of Outdoor Learning.

We did various activities including following trails, exploring the natural environment, ribbon trails and tracking using woodland signs. We looked at risk assessments in the outdoors and the positive learning outcomes children can gain from exploring the outdoors. The children and adults had a really enjoyable day.

Due to its success we ran another day in September introducing games and exploring risky play in the woods. The children and adults loved this.

Here are some comments from the days out...

“Excellent... Would like more opportunities like this please... Kids love it” Tracy Abnett

“Loved every minute thank you very much. Lots more please. We have had a lovely time the children and myself.” Julie Kitchen

“Enjoyed yet again. Keep it up please. My kids love it more each time we come” Judith Milner

“We really enjoyed this day. My child took relevant risks and problem solved, to help him get the most from the day!” Sue Ford.



### Julie Smith

I am an Early Years Consultant for the LA & am also a Forest School Practitioner level 3.

For the past 7 years I have led the developments in Outdoor Learning in Barnsley to introduce the ethos of Forest Schools which supports children learning and development. I believe that every child has a right to play out and explore the natural world, and that they also have the right to get dirty!!!!



### Sue Carr

Wombwell Park Street Primary School. I am the EY Leader and Nursery Teacher. I have been an EY teacher for 37+ years.

I was awarded a Barnsley Outstanding Achievement Award in 2008 and the Ted Wragg Lifetime Achievement Award in 2009. I completed my Forest School Level 2 Training in 2009.

At Park Street, I have been leading ‘Welly Walk’ for the last 6 years and participated in Forest School days at Silverwood.



### Lisa Bessell

I have been teaching for 20 years across all primary ages and I work at Darton Primary in a Y1/Y2 class. I am also a Forest School Level 3 Practitioner.

I have enjoyed seeing the benefits children gain from outdoor learning for a number of years. I am also lucky enough to work with other classes from FS to Y6 in our school grounds as well as the local area. This is proving to be a great success and enhances their work in the classroom.



### Julie Stephenson

FS Coordinator in a unit Age 3-5 West Meadows Primary school Forest School Practitioner level 2

We have a well developed, enclosed ‘Wild’ area which is used weekly with F1 and F2. The children are able to get a taste of Silverwood in their own setting. We also regularly visit Silverwood.

## Meet the Focus group team

### Karen Neale

Karen is the Development Officer for Early Childhood Services. She has done a lot of work supporting EYFS Welfare requirements linked to OWL.



### Kate Bray

I am Deputy Manager of Little Acorns Nursery and Out of School Club in Ward Green.

The children in our setting are 0 - 10 yrs. I am passionate about outdoor learning and have been fortunate to have completed the Forest Schools outdoor certificate. I'm excited about progressing to complete my level 3 Forest School practitioner qualification in the summer.



### Hannah Piechura

I have worked at the Sure Start Secret Garden Children's Centre for 9yrs.

The children in our setting are 0-5 yrs.

We have been developing our outdoors over recent years. We have taken 2-4yr old children and parents for weekly trips to Silverwood over the last 2 years, which have been very effective and beneficial to both child and parent.

