



# News

December 2015

## Editorial

The end of another year and it has been a fantastic one for NIFSA. Some of the highlights include developing our cross-community Forest School Programme with Holy Family and Currie Primary Schools, achieving national recognition through the OCN NI with our Forest School Leadership Level 3 Award and supporting parents and staff at Hazelwood Integrated Primary School to develop an after-schools Forest School club. Not forgetting working with parents, staff and children at Morton Community Association.



*Gareth from the Hazelwood Integrated Primary School after-schools club showing how to light a fire*



*Above: Mary Patricia Craig and Kiane Dickson record the girth of a tree from Holy Family and Currie Primary Schools*

NIFSA finished the last two schools under the Faughan Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme. This was funded for a five-year period by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Cumber Claudy Primary School and Mullabuoy Primary School. Well done to both schools who are both still running forest school sessions with their pupils.



*Above: Morton Community Association kids at Marlborough Park in Belfast*

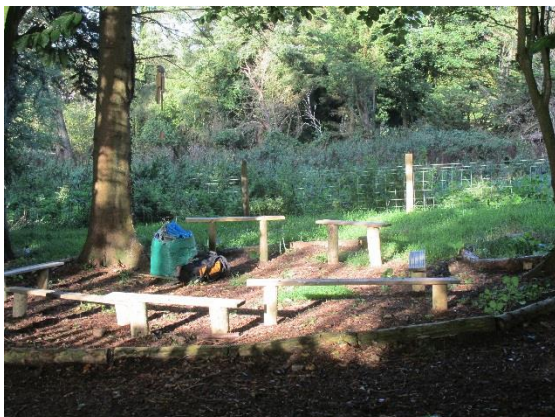


*Edel from Mullabuoy Primary School receiving her NIFSA Official Forest Site plaque for the school*



*The Principal and staff at Cumber Claudy Primary School receiving their NIFSA Official Forest School Site plaque.*

NIFSA also supported The Sunshine Nursery in Ballinderry this year. Six staff are being trained as Forest School Leaders. They have leased a small plot of land directly opposite from the nursery building and parents and volunteers helped develop a corner of a field into a wonderful magical Gruffalo Wood.



*The Sunshine Nursery Gruffalo Wood*



*Gillian and Paula from Forge Integrated Primary School receiving their NIFSA Official Forest School Site plaque after Paula completed her Forest School Leadership Award Level 3*

NIFSA continues its partnership with Stranmillis University and delivers training and assessment to many of its students over the year.



*Brian presenting 21 Introduction to Forest School Level 1 Certificates to Dr Patricia Eaton*

Thank you to all our funders – Awards for All NI, Lloyds TSB Foundation NI, Heritage Lottery Fund and George Best City Airport Community Fund. Lastly none of this would be possible without the on-going support and encouragement from the NIFSA Board.

Happy Christmas to everyone and 2016 is shaping up to be another fantastic Forest School year.

**2015 statistics:**

- Number of Forest School leaders trained – 21
- Number of Forest School sessions delivered – 100
- Number of children involved 2,600