

Editorial

We started St James and Whitehouse Nursery Shared Education Project this month. Every Wednesday morning the two nurseries will meet together. Two Forest School sites are being developed in their own school grounds to encourage outdoor exploration.



Above: The Forest School site being developed at Whitehouse Nursery School



Above: The St James Forest School site being used. Pupils exploring their site and they have to find materials to build nests for their baby chicks

The project is being funded through the Department of Education's Shared Education Scheme. The Forest School project will run for a couple of years. The first year sees the development of the schools' Forest School sites and Introduction to Forest Schools training and assessment. As well as teachers receiving the training and certification, parents are also involved. With about 16 active parents volunteering every week the project is a great success. The pupils will also receive NIFSA Nature Ranger Certificates at the end of their first year to award them for taking part and entering into the spirit of Forest Schools.

The second year will concentrate on delivering and assessing the Forest School Leadership Level 3 Award and the schools' working to running their Forest Schools independently and sustainably.



Above: Pupils from St James and Whitehouse Nurseries exploring a willow tree together

Featured website this month –



Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust

<http://www.wildforestschool.org.uk/>

Wild Forest School provides fun, engaging opportunities for children in Leicester - some of whom have never had the chance to explore the outdoors – to experience the natural world and discover nature through a range of wild activities

Easter or spring tree



Celebrate the arrival of spring by creating a mini tree for your home

Materials required:

- Secateurs
- A small branch
- Electric or hand drill
- Saw
- A small log or vase
- Decorations of your choice

Method: Find a branch that you like - it can have buds, leaves or catkins on it. You can make your own holder by sawing a thicker branch or log into a 10 cm length and then drilling a hole in the top, or you can place your branch in a vase. Then make the decorations - they could be birds as pictured, clay eggs, mini nests or flowers.

Colour or nature's palettes



Capture a little piece of nature to brighten up your home

Materials required:

- Card
- Double sided sticky tape
- Leaves, petals, flowers

Method: Cut your card into strips, square, or any shape you like! Cover with double sided tape. Peel back the white strip and stick on the natural materials of your choice. NB: It's best to use flowers that are abundant, or to just pick one or two petals from each flower.

<http://www.wildforestschool.org.uk/resources/>