

Forest School News

Spring Term 3

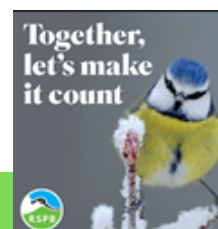
Trinity
Academy
Akroydon



Hello! My name is Ms Gravestock and I am the new Forest School Leader at Akroydon.

I love being outdoors and am happiest when surrounded by nature!

I have been a primary school teacher in Halifax for the past eight years, but before that I have worked outside in the environment for four different charities, introducing children and young people to all the wonders of nature. I can't wait to see the smile on each child's as we take the learning outdoors and start to really explore the world outside!



BBC Winterwatch Live



In January, the whole school took part in the BBC's Winterwatch Live lesson, along with thousands of other schools around the country.

We learnt about bird beak adaptations, food chains and food webs, and found out more about the RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch and how it helps bird experts to monitor UK bird populations.

RSPB BIG SCHOOLS' BIRDWATCH

In February, we took part in the RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch, with the children surveying the school grounds to discover which bird species visit our school.

We made speedy bird cakes, lardy pinecone feeders and crumbly maggot pastries to try and attract more birds. Both activities count towards the children being awarded their individual Wild Challenge Bronze Certificate.

We have seen Black Headed Gulls, Magpies, Jackdaws, Wood Pigeons, Starlings, Blue Tits, Collared Doves, Blackbirds, Thrushes and Robins! We are beginning to recognise and name them by their feathers, birdsong and flight patterns. Watch out for a species list on our website!



The Earthshot Eco-Committee

This term, we have chosen our three areas to focus on for the year: Waste, Energy & Biodiversity.

We been working hard to write an Environmental Action Plan for the whole school, detailing how we are going to make a difference in each of these three areas.

For example, to improve our biodiversity, we will soon be planting a hedgerow around the perimeter of the school to create a wildlife corridor.

Young Tree Champions



We applied to the Tree Council and have been chosen to become Young Tree Champions!

Through this scheme, we will:

- increase biodiversity within our school grounds and beyond;
- improve children's mental health by connecting them with the nature on their doorstep;
- empower them to become part of the environmental solution
- highlight the pivotal role biodiversity plays in healing Planet Earth.

Watch this space!

Community Tree Pack



We have been awarded a Community Tree Pack from the Woodland Trust! In January, we successfully applied for 420 tree saplings to form a hedgerow around the school.

As they grow, these trees will form a wildlife corridor, act as a learning resource for children and help protect us from noise and air pollution from the road.

We have chosen Hazel, Blackthorn, Crab apple, Elder, Dog Rose and Rowan. This mix of saplings will provide food for birds, mammals and invertebrates.

Our trees arrive in March and then the whole school will be involved in planting them!

Forest School Club

We created crowns for the king and queen and wassailed our fruit trees to encourage them to bear a full harvest in the coming year!

We have been planting purple crocus bulbs in pots to take home and grow indoors or out. We have also planted some around the base of trees in the school carpark.

We have been making observational drawings of our birdlife at school.

Forest School News

Spring Term 4

**This term we will be starting weekly sessions with the following year groups:
5, 3, 1 and Reception.**

Our sessions will cover a variety of activities, structured around the three strands of Forest School: Learning Outside the Classroom, Wild Passport and Wild Challenge!

Learning Outside the Classroom focuses on delivering elements of the national curriculum outdoors:

Year 5 – Shelter Building (Design & Technology)

Year 3 – Plants (Science)

Year 1 – Weather (Geography)

Reception – Growing Things

What clothes do children need?

To provide the opportunity for children to participate fully in our outdoor sessions, it is important for children to wear clothing that will keep them warm and dry regardless of the weather – the Forest School runs in all weathers! Clothes will get dirty, so we recommend that old clothes are sent. Children are asked to bring:



- Sturdy boots or Wellington boots.
- Socks that are long enough to tuck trousers in and prevent rubbing, especially if children are wearing Wellingtons.
- Long trousers such as jogging bottoms, jeans or trousers.
- Long sleeved top/ shirt to ensure arms are covered even when it is sunny.
- Waterproof jacket.
- Waterproof over trousers (or a spare pair of trousers to wear outdoors if they get wet).
- An extra layer is useful in case the weather changes or the wind has a chill even when it is sunny.
- Jumpers when it gets colder.



LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Providing students with more opportunities to access high quality learning beyond the classroom experiences can:

- Open their eyes to the world around them and allows them to develop into well-rounded citizens
- Enhance academic attainment and personal development
- Support their health and well-being, and spiritual, moral, social and cultural needs

Learning Outside the Classroom occurs across all subject areas and areas of learning and is embedded into the curriculum to offer meaningful and impactful experiences.



WILD PASSPORT

WILD Passport

Our ambition is for children to take part in our brand new WILD Passport programme. Split into five skill areas: Woodcraft, Shelter, Fire, Nature and Rope, it helps form a framework for all skill acquisition, learning, independence, resilience and more than anything else, ADVENTURE!

This is a progressive woodland skills curriculum, using a purpose-designed skill progression pathway and Individual Learning Pathway. The Wild Passport takes learners from foundation woodland skills through to higher level competencies over a five-year period with 125 learning objectives.

RSPB WILD CHALLENGE!

The RSPB's Wild Challenge is a call to get up, get out and get wild! It's a challenge for children to connect with the natural world in brave new ways - to reach out and touch it and meet it head-on, up-close and personal.

There are bronze, silver and gold awards to achieve depending on how many activities the children complete.

It is vital for the future that today's young people grow up closer and more in-tune with wildlife and wild places. Wild Challenge is about forging a lasting friendship with the natural world around us and helping it to thrive and survive!

