



- Spring Newsletter



Why we are different

Our ethos is based on the 'Forest School' ethos *and* the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. Children aged two-to-five, immerse themselves in a long-term programme, where they have the freedom to learn in an *outdoor setting*. They are encouraged to use their experiences to improve and maintain their well-being. Children choose where, what and how to play and learn, learning observed, supported and progressed, by fully trained professionals. Children learn to manage their own risks and reflect on how their feelings change over time. This holistic approach results in increased self-esteem and better mental health which enables them to continue to succeed when they move on to their next learning environment.



This term

Since returning after the Christmas break it has once again been a busy time at The Shepherd's Hut. We have enjoyed being creative and constructing obstacle courses, walkways and pirate ships with our new pallets, planks and cable reels! We have collected wood for our campfire and wood burner and used saws to cut it up. We also used a froe & mallet to split the logs. Other tools that we have used this term include loppers which we used to chop up our Christmas tree. The branches have become a forest for Little Red Riding Hood and also a prehistoric land for our dinosaurs to explore. Of course we have had fun in the snow too... following animal tracks, making ice shapes and using hammers to smash them up. We also made multi-coloured snow and generally had fun playing in the wintry conditions.

Using loppers to chop up our Christmas tree...



Sheep excitement!

Our neighbours' sheep escaped one day and we enjoyed watching the farmer working his dogs to round them up safely!

Staffing

Sadly we said farewell to Gabbie who has now taken up her new role at another setting. We wish her well with her promotion and in her future career. Gabbie's departure has led to some restructuring and Erica is now the full time Manager at The Shepherd's Hut. To facilitate this Karl has taken over Erica's Forest School work in local primary schools.

Feedback for Parents

We are currently trialling an online system for recording the children's development (in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage), observations and photographs. Once this is up and running efficiently, parents will be able to access this information electronically and will even be able to add to comments and information too. Eventually this system will replace the weekly Facebook updates and daily WhatsApp that parents currently receive.

We will be publishing some dates for meetings with parents over the next week or so.

Archeological dig.

