

# ***Thoughts from Alford Primary Pupils and staff on Outdoor Learning***

*Never has outdoor learning been more important after long periods of the last year with so many restrictions. I am sure that the drive to develop the outdoor facilities at the school is aiding the well-being of many of the children.*

*Amy Wilson on behalf of Alford Primary Parent Council*



*I think the images and words from the children provide a great snapshot of how much we are utilising and benefitting from our developing outdoor spaces. Thanks to all involved in helping us grow our outdoor learning here at Alford Primary. It is very much appreciated!*

*Thanks again,*

*Derek Gray (lead outdoor learning teacher)*

Luke, age 12

*In outdoor learning we have done fun games around the forest and challenges like; The tallest stick tower, cutting the tree's branches back to make the forest brighter and rewilding. We were exploring the forest more and more as we had done each lesson. Overall, I really enjoyed outdoor learning!*

Robert, age 12

*At outdoor learning we learned quite a lot but personally my favourite were: sawing off the branches in the dark wood as our teacher would say which, if I remember correctly, the type of trees were Sitka spruce but the other trees which were in the light wood which were called scots pine which we did not cut down any of the branches because there was already enough space I also loved playing eagle eye. I was very sad when I heard that there were no more but at the same time I was glad that some of the younger pupils get a chance to enjoy it as much as I did.*

Adam, age 12

*I really enjoyed outdoor learning because of the activities we did like rewilding by using hand saws to cut branches off the trees of the dark woods. I also enjoyed doing the natural art where we got materials and then we made some cool art. I quite liked making our own micro sized national park, my group used bird berries, some pinecones, and a hill. I also liked some games like eagle eye, pick up sticks and 5mins of free time.*



Ava, age 11

*In Outdoor Learning we did fun activities like designing our own animal then building a house out of natural materials for it, sawing down the lower branches of trees in the dark wood so that more light can get in and make that side a lot brighter. We have also played Eagle Eye which is a really fun version of hide and seek or camouflage, and pick up sticks where you had to be careful pulling the sticks from the stack like Jenga, we also played Mancala and it was a strategy game. One of my favourite activities were either when we had to lay down on the ground and look up for squirrels or when we had to make art out of natural objects. We also learn a lot about different animals and the types of animals that would live in the forests in Scotland. I really like Outdoor Learning because we always do new interesting activities and learn new things about nature.*

Christopher, age 11

*In outdoor learning we did lots of fun games like cutting tree branches and making huge stick towers and we made up animal habitats and so much more as well.*



Emily, age 10 - *I like outdoor learning because I can see nature and wildlife. Outdoor learning is fun because we can look after that bit of the forest and I love caring for nature. I like outdoor learning but we could do with some more equipment to make our work better. So far, we have learnt about the plants and on rewilding the dark forest.*

Meghan, age 10 - *I like outdoor learning because we get some fresh air and it's fun to do something different. We have cut down branches and made pictures with stuff like grass and pinecones.*

Isla, age 10 - *I enjoy outdoor learning because I love the woods and being in nature. I loved using the hand saws and cutting of the branches to let light into the woods which we call the dark woods. And I'm pretty sure everyone can agree that outdoor learning is better than maths. And every outdoor learning lesson is always amazing and my mum and dad love hearing about it.*

Brodie, age 10 - *I kinda like outdoor learning because sometimes we do fun things like cutting down trees, thinking about "spirit" animals and building stuff.*

Sandy, age 10 - *I like outdoor learning because we get to go outside and do fun activities. I have done lots of fun things like making dens in the forest.*

Ryan, age 10 - *I like outdoor learning because we get to learn about nature. We have made dens and we have made tool cut away branches. I think outdoor learning is really good as it teaches us about nature and how to look after it when we get older.*

