

## REPORT FOR THE NINEVEH CHARITABLE TRUST

Thanks to the continued support from The Niveveh Charitable Trust we have been able to considerably extend our work on the Otterden Estate in Kent.

We have been working on Otterden Estate since 2008 when it was first used as a venue for one of our many nationwide Estate Days and we had just over 100 children from local schools attending. Since then the Estate Day has taken place annually. The children take part and learn from a variety of activities including farm animals, farm machinery, woodland, birds of prey, gundog, gamekeeper and mini-beast hunting.

Over the past few years, we have increased our activity at Otterden, introducing woodland sessions along with the Estate Day. In 2016 we reached almost 800 children and in 2018 almost 1400.

The demand for our Estate Day in 2019 was so great, that we decided to offer an additional day, so we ran two consecutive days with over 200 children at each.

Nowadays, we not only work with schools local to Otterden, but also have schools coming from Ashford, Maidstone, Canterbury, Sittingbourne and Whitstable. We don't charge for the visits as schools very often find the cost of transport restrictive enough.

We were delighted that Robert Lewis and Michael Howells were kind enough to take time to come and visit one of the Estate Days this year and took great interest in what we were providing for the children. Without help from trusts like yours, we wouldn't be able to achieve so much. Outdoor learning is very important. Not only are the children learning in a different way/environment, it is also beneficial to their mental health and wellbeing. It is lovely to see a child who was disinterested at the start of the day, be fully motivated and enthusiastic by the time they leave.

The demand from schools is there, but we are not always able to accommodate all of them due to lack of funds. Looking to the future, if funds allowed, we would be able to further extend our work at Otterden.

I will say no more, but will leave you with some quotes from teachers who have been to the Estate Day and Woodland days (I haven't included them all). I will also send you some photos.

Barbara Brannigan

*"I have been asked to pass on our thanks for a truly fantastic day yesterday and to thank you for the invite. Please also forward our thanks to all who contributed, volunteers and sponsors, our children had a really great day."*

*"I LOVE what you deliver to the schools. We are so very grateful for it."*

*"Thank you so much for a wonderful day with you all yesterday! The children were full of it today, and have done some wonderful writing about their favourite things! When I showed them the photos and videos I had taken, there were lots of choruses around, 'I loved that!', 'That was my favourite!' etc. Please extend our thanks to everyone involved and, even though it rained, it didn't take the shine off our day at all! Kind regards and hope to see you again next year"*

*"Just wanted to thank you making our visit today so fantastic. The children had a wonderful time and learnt lots about trees, seeds and looking after woodland. Enabling the children to explore and interact with the woodland helped them to better appreciate all that it gives us. It was such a valuable experience."*

*“Enthusiasm of session coordinator was great. Very willing to answer children’s questions. Children loved all activities.”*

*“The session leader was brilliant at making the session interesting and fun for the children. Every child was full of enthusiasm for the activities they had taken part in and said they had a great time . They passed this onto their parents at the end of the school day. Staff too felt the trip was invaluable for the children we had brought and the activities were very appropriate and well pitched.”*

*“Thank you so much for a brilliant day. The children really enjoyed it, many saying it was their best trip ever! I thought it was excellent, great knowledge, games and very well organised. You were fantastic with the children and set a great pace to their learning. Thank you so much. I'm looking forward to the next one already. “*

*“Another fabulously inspiring session – MANY THANKS you were wonderful with my class and it was a pleasure to work with you again.”*

*“Great day, made accessible due to the free activities. Budgets are very limited and having free events is a luxury. Thank you so much for this wonderful educational day!”*

*“The best organised trip I have been on as a teacher. The kids and I loved it.”*

*“The session leader had some really great practical activities that she did with the children that they all really enjoyed. She also had a great rapport with the children and they learnt a lot more about the different types of trees.”*

*“A fantastic day, lead brilliantly. Brilliant activities that were all age appropriate, interactive and informative. Thanks”*

*“Thank you for a great day, the children really enjoyed it and the staff and parents that also came commented on what a good trip it was.”*

*“Fabulous session, well planned and very engaging. Great resources and enough of everything. The children (and adults) really enjoyed it and have taken lots away from the morning.”*

*“An extremely informative session, packed with activities and learning. A dynamic delivery by the session leader.”*

*“Thanks again – as ever, professionally delivered. You motivated, encouraged and enthused my group of younger children this time.”*

*“Excellent educational visit to embed tricky concepts.”*

*“Very enjoyable session, led by a very good, enthusiastic, knowledgeable practitioner.”*

*“Thank you for an amazing visit! Can we rebook for next year?”*

*“The activities that the children participated in were engaging and captured their imagination. I have never seen so many children's coat pocket bulging with the treasures that they had found whilst exploring the woodland! The facilities were first class. We would love to visit again in the future. “*

*"I just wanted to let you know that we had the most amazing time on Wednesday the children got so much from their visit. The artwork in the woodland is going form a wonderful stimulus for some creative writing next week. "*

*"The session leader is very knowledgeable and able to build excellent relationships with children in a short time. So well organised, children learnt a lot with great ideas for us to follow up at school. We will definitely send more classes to fit in with topic curriculum."*

*"What a fabulous opportunity in a wonderful setting. The session leader was superb with the children and made sure the trip was exciting and engaging for us all."*

*"All children were engaged throughout. The activities were pitched at the correct level for the children. Informative and enjoyable. I would come again with the children and recommend to other teachers/schools."*

*"The teachers agreed that this was the best school trip they had been on in a long time.. Much better than going to a museum. Fantastic trip, so practical, all activities were knowledge appropriate. The session leader was an amazing host and lead for the trip, couldn't recommend highly enough. Big thanks for your hospitality, organisation and enthusiasm."*

*"One of the more challenging boys said to me on the way out that it was the "best school trip ever" and one of the girls said she wanted to come back again."*

*"Good links to stories – learning outdoors and ideas for activities to do with the children back in school. "*

*"Fantastic trip, all activities and knowledge appropriate. Amazing host and lead for the trip, couldn't recommend highly enough. Big thank you for your hospitality, organisation and enthusiasm!"*

*"Lovely staff. Thanks for your kind manner and sharing your knowledge with our children."*

*"The children loved seeing real examples of trees and branches – I really enjoyed this too! Making the model of the tree using children helped bring this concept to life for them. Scavenging and walking through the woods were great opportunities for the children to use their newly acquired knowledge. The session leader was knowledgeable and friendly – a perfect balance. Thanks!"*

*"Fantastically patient session leader. Children learnt lots of new vocabulary, they really engaged with the activities. All in all a great educational experience."*

*"The smiles on the children's faces tells us all we need to know about our successful yr1 trip. A wood and plenty of logs were all that was needed to give the children an amazing sense of responsibility and purpose."*

*"I just wanted to say a big thank you to you for leading our trips in the woods. The children were buzzing about it when they returned to school."*

*"I hope we'll be able to take advantage of some more sessions with you in the future."*

*"Some lovely games and excellent for reinforcing our science and maths learning."*

*"Really great day. Lots of curriculum objectives were met with an extra dose of fun. All staff and children loved the experience."*

*"Lovely, exciting and engaging."*