



Newsletter

December 2020



PLAY | LEARN | EXPLORE

BILLERICAY | WICKFORD | BRENTWOOD | INGRAVE



ANNOUNCEMENT NEW PRESCHOOL IN LANGHAM HALL, BILLERICAY FOR 2021.

The Treehouse 'Forestry Nursery & Out of School Club' is looking to expand and acquire the running of an 'Term-time Only Pre-school' held at 'Langham Hall' in Langham Cres, Billericay CM12 9RD. Our new pre-school opening in March 2021 will be offering Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:30-3:30. The new proposed venue at 'Langham Community Hall' would allow our pre-school to benefit from its own designated areas with dedicated indoor and extensive outdoor spaces; ideal for forestry led activities. The modern hall features a sizable kitchen, offices with full CCTV security, full DDA access/ramps and ample parking facilities. From Jan 2021, we'll be offering free registrations for new members. Do you know anyone who may be interested? Kindly let us know. Many thanks for your support.

KINDLY SPREAD THE WORD

NEW PRESCHOOL OPENING IN SOUTH GREEN AREA, BILLERICAY | TERM-TIME ONLY (ON MON, WED & FRI.) TELL YOUR FRIENDS & FAMILY!

WELCOME

2020 YEAR IN REVIEW - MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTORS

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Wow what a year! Firstly, I would like to say whole heartily, I am very proud to manage a chain of nurseries with such wonderful staff, children and parents. This has been an extremely hard year for everyone, nevertheless the support we have received from parents have kept us all going. I am a great believer in fostering community spirit and this year I believe we have achieved this with much success.

We will make sure this continues to grow into 2021 with our new initiatives to increase our parent partnerships including children's birthday parties, receiving your recorded stories for children's circle times, meeting parents on our virtual coffee mornings, activities you can do at home and parents supporting our policies when attending the nursery

My biggest aim this year was to minimise the impact of this horrid virus to our children and not let their education be affected. Our vision at The Treehouse Club is 'For every child to never forget their childhood and how to have an adventure!' With our wonderful dedicated staff, we have continued to have memorable adventures every day and always will!

Wishing you a wonderful and safe Christmas holiday. We look forwards to seeing you in 2021 and I thank you again for your ongoing support.

Have a wonderful Christmas everyone!

A. Wilson | Managing Director



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I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU ALL, PARENTS, CHILDREN, STAFF AND FRIENDS OF TREEHOUSE CLUB, FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND TO WISH YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES A SAFE CHRISTMAS AND A NEW YEAR OF HEALTH AND HAPPINESS.



Brentwood Makes Local News

(September 18 2020)

BRENTWOOD
Gazette

BRENTWOOD FORESTRY NURSERY CELEBRATE TWO YEAR ANNIVERSARY - THE TREEHOUSE FORESTRY NURSERY AIM TO CREATE LIFELONG MEMORIES FOR CHILDREN IN THE COMMUNITY

The Treehouse Club located at the Thriftwood scouting centre in Brentwood recently celebrated its second year anniversary.

The Treehouse forestry nursery is a preschool and out of school club and was the first full-time forestry nursery in Essex and are passionate about holistic outdoor educational learning; reconnecting children with nature in a fun, friendly and stimulating environment. They also pride themselves on being the greenest eco-friendly childcare provision in Billericay, Brentwood, Wickford and Ingrave.

Their achievements are the result of the combined efforts of every staff member whose hard work, motivation and dedication to improving pre-school, nursery and childcare provision and being dedicated ambassadors of nature-based education is greatly valued.

Natalie Moodey, Marketing and Communications manager, said: "Our smiling children are the biggest driver to our continued growth and success.

"Thank you to all our 'little adventurers' for being our inspiration to fulfil our dreams of a healthy, joyful and wondrous early years education." The Treehouse Club have always prioritised their dream of creating the best possible experience and opportunities for children and are happy that the hard work their teams put in and the incredible experience they offer the children has been recognised. They are now in a position to extend their preschool and day nursery experiences to new locations such as Ingrave, Herongate and the larger Brentwood locality.

Company Director, Ashley Willson, added: "The last two years have been amazing; we have had the pleasure of meeting the community and getting to know their amazing children.

"Our team creates our vision for 'every child to never forget their childhood and how to have an adventure everyday' - we would love for all our children to create lasting memories."

"It's been a wonderful two years of togetherness, laughter, adventures and of growing our 'outdoor learning' Treehouse family."

The team would like to extend a big thank you to their partners at the Thriftwood Scout Campsite and Activity Centre for their superb woodland location, their inspiring children, loyal families and diverse local community for their ongoing support and helping to reach this exciting milestone.



12 Things for Kids to do with Nature on a Woodland Walk

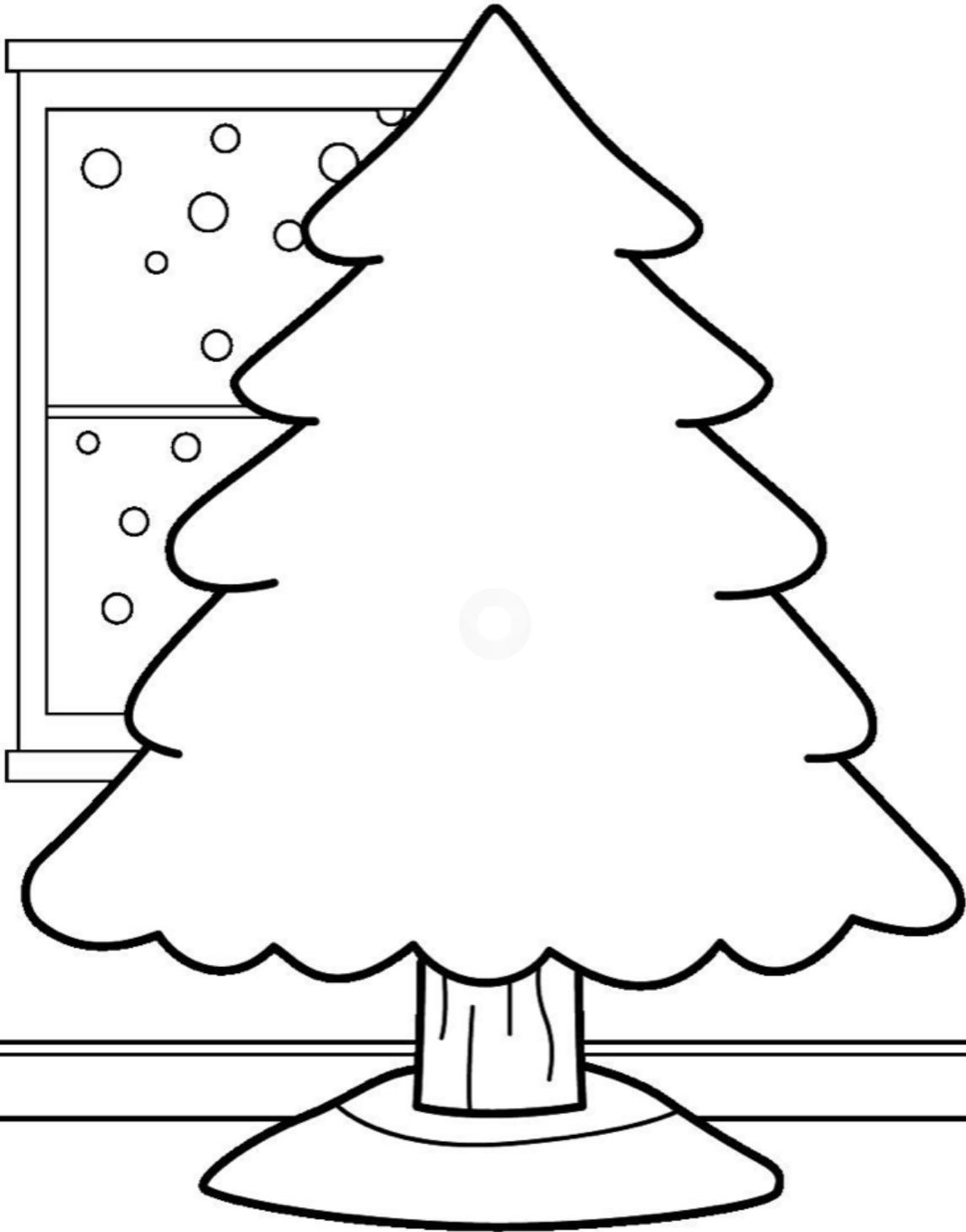
LET'S GET OUTSIDE THIS HOLIDAY

1. One for a garden or a woods... Build a Stick Maze and have the children navigate themselves out of it. Or why not a decorative pattern.
2. How about Nest Spotting? Helps to keep kids observant!
3. Collect up some nature materials and Write your Name in Nature.
4. A good craft idea for Autumn (but would work any time of year) is to make a Leaf Crown.
5. Scavenger Hunts are a Fantastic Way to help engage small people when out exploring nature.
6. Ever try building Dens or Stick Forts in the woods? One of our favourite Forest school activities.
7. Collaborative Story Telling is a great way to help build your child's vocabulary and where better to do it then in an atmospheric woodland setting?
8. For younger children and toddlers, it's great to have a Nature Sensory Container or basket at home for children to discover more about the world around them.
9. Another activity that we've just made in our back garden is a Fairy House. Now, whenever we're out for a walk, the children like to collect little bits and pieces to decorate their fairy houses.
10. Make simple paint brushes from nature and see what unusual patterns you can create (use stick for the handle with different natural materials as the bristles). This is such a lovely outdoor process art technique with spectacular results from your Messy Little Monster/s.
11. If you're looking to explore nature in more detail – how about bark rubbings (this also works well with leaves!).
12. Ever wanted to try Geo-caching? This is a great idea to keep older children engaged outdoors. Children are never too young to start.



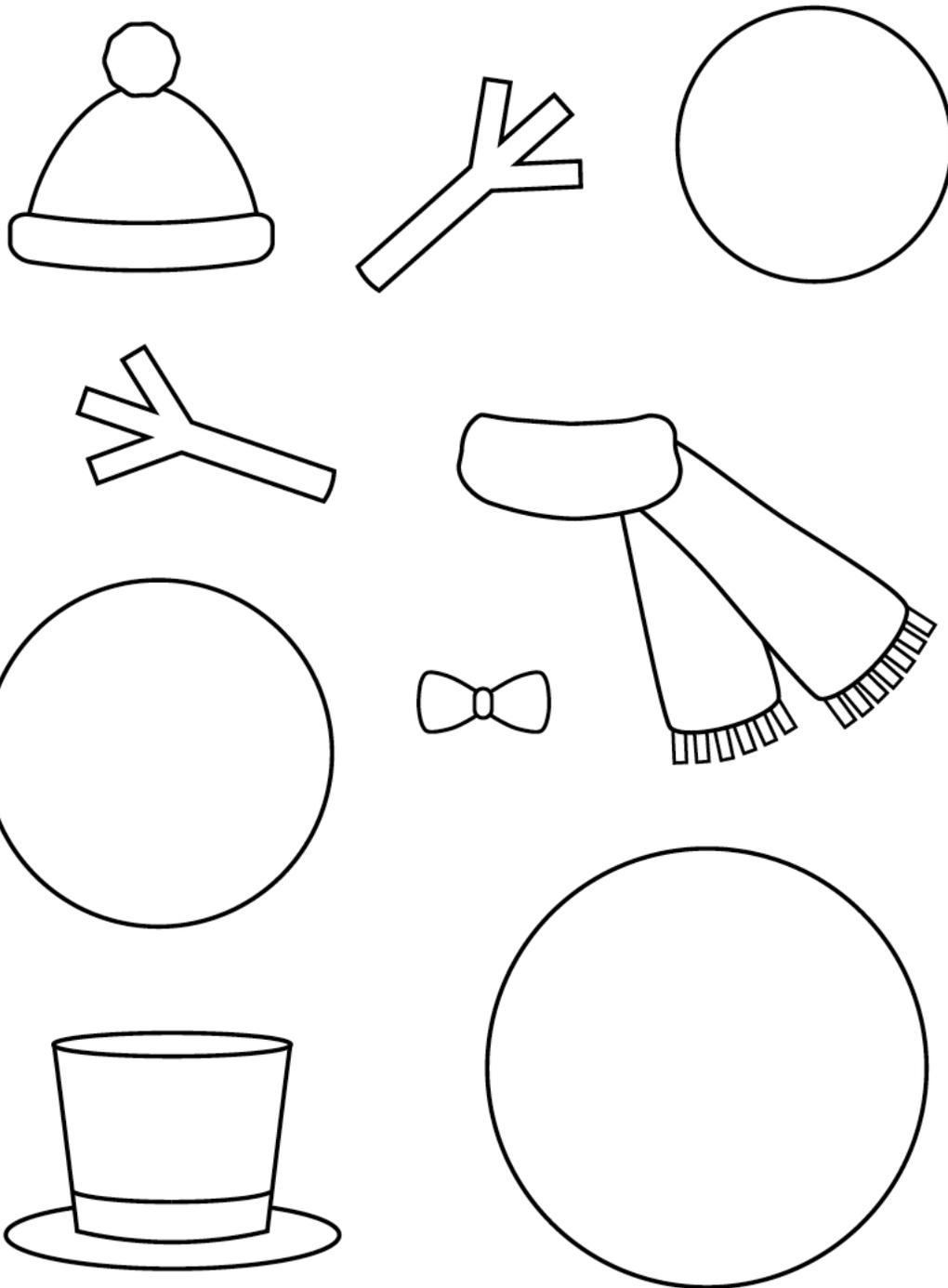
Finish the Drawing!

Decorate the Christmas Tree!



Festive printables | Mix Match Snowman & Tree Decorating

Snowman



Out of School & Holiday Club

This year, we were pleased to offer a Covid-secure Holiday Club as well as Out of School programme. The children continued to enjoy spending time in the fresh air and nature and participating in numerous action-packed activities. We were very fortunate this summer to have some amazing weather. It was a summer filled with outdoor pursuits, nature hunts, pond-dipping, den building, forest school, climbing, fishing and so much more. Our boys and girls had hours of fun, built confidence, improved their creativity, kept moving, made new friends and lasting memories. All the wonderful reasons to spend time in nature!



Currently, our OOS Billericay children have been exploring Scandinavian Christmas themes with Ingrid, our OOS staff member born in Scandinavia! She's been giving our settings such a personal touch and experience. The children have been making Pom-Pom's using wool and cross-stitching bookmarks. There is nothing like a homemade Christmas!

Our younger OOS children have been learning Christmas songs using musical instruments and making Christmas decorations with clay and wood. They are even expecting a special visitor on Dec 18th.

We look forwards to offering more nature-based activities next year in our holiday and out of school club programmes. We extend a big thank you to all our HC/OOS families for their continued support this year.



Benefits of Playing Outdoors in the Winter

Fresh Air | Escape the Germs

Often, parents think that children will catch a cold by spending time outdoors in the winter. However, spending time indoors with poor ventilation and the central heating on actually increases the chances of spreading germs and illnesses from person to person.

Exercise | Physical Activity

It's important to remember that your child is still growing during the winter months and that long periods of inactivity are not good for their muscle development. Winter activities provide opportunities for children to move their bodies in different ways and support gross motor skills. Hopefully we'll be lucky to see some snow this year as well.

Daylight | Boost your Mood

Vitamin D is created when our skin is exposed to sunlight. Vitamin D helps increase serotonin levels in the brain which in turn helps to regulate our mood. Exposure to natural daylight also helps to regular sleep cycles.

Resilience | New Challenges & Problem Solving

The change in environment during the winter months offers new opportunities for children to challenge themselves – negotiating slippery possibly icy surfaces and/or walking through a muddy path.



The children loved the cold frosty mornings. If there is one thing we have heard this year, it's that being outdoors has many benefits. As the weather turns towards the dark winter, it can be tempting to stay indoors but honestly, we seem to feel so much better for having spent some time outside.



Create a Stir with the kids in your festive kitchen

EASY FESTIVE ROCKY ROAD



INGREDIENTS

- 200g dark chocolate
- 200g digestive biscuits
- 150g butter or margarine
- 100g marshmallows, chopped
- 3tbs golden syrup
- Small handful of dried fruit – optional
- Small handful of chopped nuts – optional

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Line a small baking tray with greaseproof paper or a silicone sheet.
2. Pop the biscuits in a plastic bag, seal and bash with a rolling pin until you've got a mixture of sizes from crumbs through to small chunks. (Kids love to help with this part!)
3. Melt the butter, chocolate and golden syrup in a small saucepan over a gentle heat.
4. Once melted, add the marshmallows, biscuits and dried fruit and nuts if you're using them. Stir well to mix thoroughly.
5. Tip into the baking tray and smooth evenly. Chill for at least two hours in the fridge.
6. Cut into squares and serve. It's also simple and versatile and can be tailored to suit what's in your store cupboard, making it a great no-bake recipe to make on a wintery day!



Our Charities 2020

TREEHOUSE HAS JOINED THE FIGHT! DOING OUR PART FOR THE COMMUNITY

Throughout the COVID pandemic, our staff, parents and children continued to support our local communities through charity events with ongoing generosity. We have been overwhelmed by the support to help our neighbourhoods and important causes. We saw a number of fundraising events across the settings and notably our fantastic ‘Muddy Puddle Charity Fundraising Event’ in support of Save the Children UK. A much-loved muddy event for all our Early Years children across our settings. Our little muddy jumpers collectively raised an astonishing £2627.55 towards this brilliant cause!

Our lovely Treehouse Community also raised money for our chosen ‘Donkey Charity’ by taking part in a mud slide (yes it was extremely amusing), Pudsey walks in the local woods, cake sales, collections for the local food bank, Christmas Jumper Day and much more.

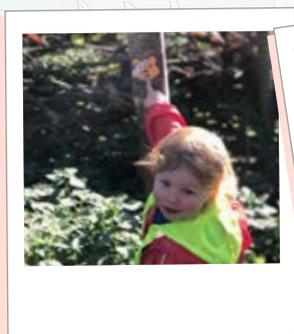
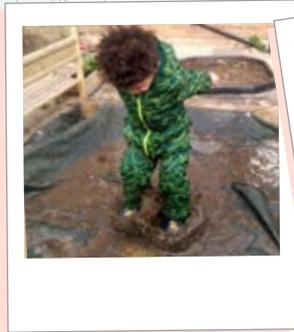
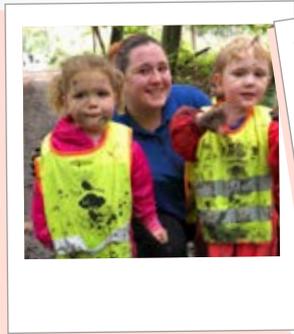
Congratulations to all those involved and our generous community supporters.



At Treehouse Club, we believe it’s never too early to get children interested and involved in giving back and learning about the importance of giving. Children are capable of tremendous compassion, and with a little help and direction, kids can begin to make a big impact in their communities.

We look forward to supporting these worthwhile causes and getting involved in local charity work. Feel free to contact your setting manager for more information and let us know about the causes that are closest to your hearts. We love to get involved and we are always looking for new ideas for 2021.

Our 2020 Charity Gallery





A Poem

Read a book, climb a tree,
Write a letter to your family.

Bake a cake, learn to sow,
Create a chart to measure how you grow.

Plant a seed, or dance in the rain,
Smile and laugh again and again.

Enjoy your time with all that you love.
We cannot wait to welcome you back after
the Christmas holiday.

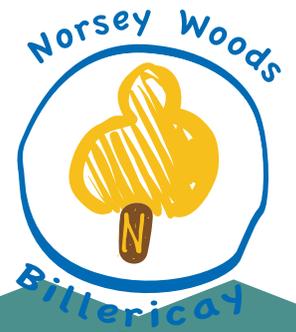
Take care.

All your Treehouse Club Family

Merry Christmas



Norsey Woods



IT'S BEEN A BUSY FEW MONTHS AT NORSEY WOODS

Dear Norsey Woods Family,

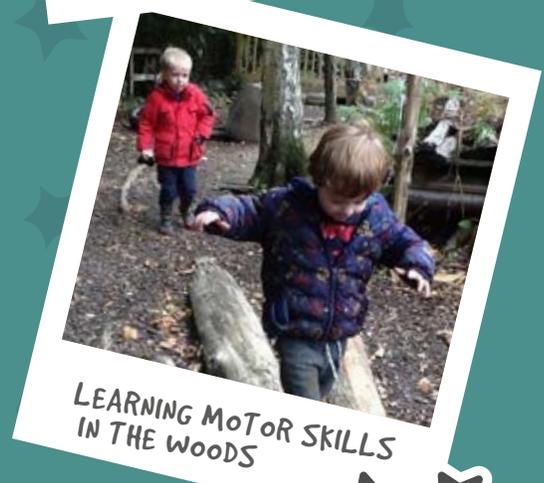
It goes without saying, we have been so impressed by the children's positive attitude, resilience and adaptability. Despite the unusual circumstances we found ourselves in this year – the children have been wonderful, and we thank you for your support.

We continued to use the fantastic outdoor recourses at our disposal, the children explored the woods a bit differently this year. It was lovely to see them get immersed in nature; they spent their days exploring, building dens, using tools, hunting for mini-beasts and creating works of forest art – learning through play.

When we haven't been outside in the woods or in our garden, the children have been enjoying our loose parts resources indoors. In the 'Robin's room', they loved to splash in big puddles. They also enjoyed searching for birds and we often spot a very friendly robin that comes up close as well as a cuckoo bird. The 'Hedgehogs' will confirm that splashing their teachers in large wet muddy puddles was a firm favourite this year as well as our fabulous mud hills for truck races. This has been a great activity to develop their sharing abilities and emotional skills.

Our 'Owls' are great explorers – they always love to choose the destination in the woods. We use this time to forage for useful natural resources that can be used for mud painting, loose parts and maths lessons. The children have been exposed to using various tools; they love to use potato peelers to scrap bark or magnifying glasses to hunt down the minibeasts. Currently, the children have been enjoying a wide variety of Christmas activities including making gingerbread people using clay, forestry angels, Christmas tree decorating, making pom poms and learning our favourite song 'When Santa Got Stuck Up the Chimney'. Christmas magic has been strong this year.

Before the year comes to a quick close, may we wish you all a lovely and safe Christmas holiday and all the best for happy and healthy 2021. We look forward to seeing you soon.



Billericay



GETTING FESTIVE AND CREATIVE



OUR FOREST SCHOOL SESSIONS



SPREADING CHRISTMAS CHEER FOR ALL!



FESTIVE LEARNING



WHAT CAN YOU FIND IN THE FOREST!

Dollymans



In Wickford, it's been a crazy year with many fun-filled months and changes. We were pleased to announce that the nursery saw a complete room refurbishment with new decoration, furniture and resources. We reopened the new and improved Robins (baby room), Hedgehogs (2-year-old room) and Owls (all year-round preschool). We also introduced a brand-new Badger Preschool (term-time only). With these beautiful new settings, we have continued planning amazing activities and ensured the children remain at the forefront of our top priorities.

The summer months were filled with den building, forest walks, creating sun catchers and splashing in cool water. This was a perfect way to welcome our children back after lockdown with open arms and outdoor learning. Into the autumn and winter months, the children have been printing leaves, mud painting, collecting sticks, making popcorn and bug hunting.

The Christmas season has come upon us so quickly this and the children have been thrilled to get into the festive spirit. We have been very busy making Christmas cards, tree decorations and learning festive songs. In line with our 'outdoor in all weathers philosophy', we have been going on daily wintery walks, tyre building, leaf collecting and finding ice outside. It's been a very charitable year with a number of fundraising events including, Muddy Puddle and Christmas Jumper Day. We thank you again for your generosity.

This year saw the introduction of birthday parties, which have been a colossal hit! All children deserve to celebrate their birthday with their friends and we have ensured that they get to have that lasting memory. Wickford birthday parties have become the children's favourite time of the week and the feedback we have received from parents has been incredible and we are very grateful. Whilst this year has provided many challenges, it certainly has passed incredibly quickly, and has been one to remember! Our success in overcoming these challenges is mainly down to you as parents, by adhering to Government guidelines and being so understanding with our policies.

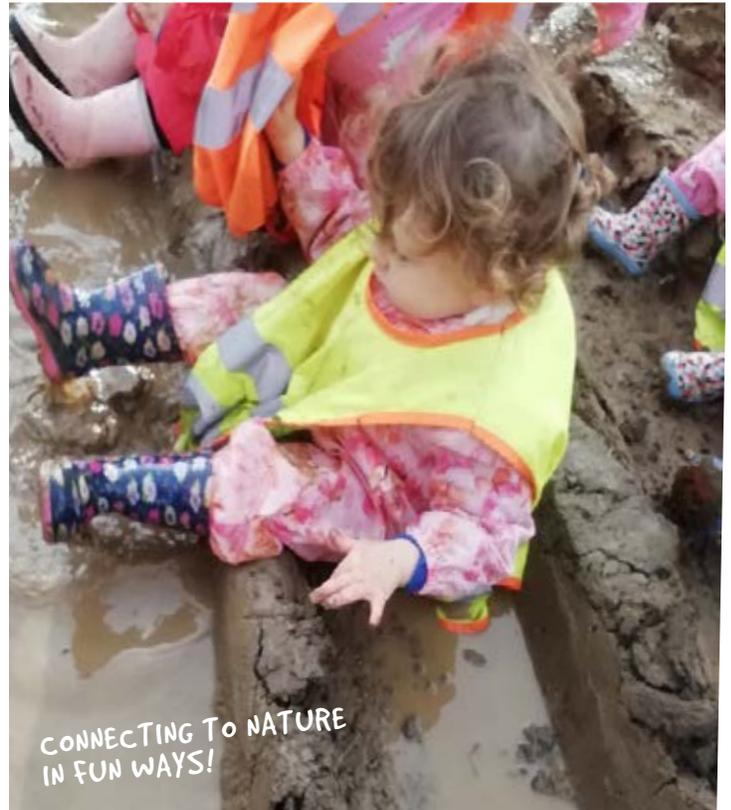
With your dedicated support we have been able to alter some of our day-to-day operations and to transition smoothly. We thank you again for your continuous support and understanding and hope for a fantastic 2021. From all of us, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and safe New Year.



Wickford



LOVELY SUNSHINE



CONNECTING TO NATURE IN FUN WAYS!



MAKING THINGS GROW & LEARNING ABOUT OUR ENVIRONMENT



EXPRESSIVE ART & DESIGN WITH MUD!

MATHS WITH NATURAL RESOURCES

OUR LOVELY OUTDOOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENT!



Thriftwood



A YEAR TO REMEMBER AT BRENTWOOD

During this challenging year, it's been great to know that our Treehouse focus on outdoor learning and using natural resources has helped us stay resilient and strong! Once again, we would like to thank our parents/carers for your involvement and ongoing partnerships with our setting. We have enjoyed your interactions during lockdown with keeping home learning alive and fun. We received a fantastic selection of photos for our 'in the moment planning'. With great engagement, we were able to utilise children's home interests and share them with the wider Treehouse family as well as contributing to the next steps in development.

Our family Bug Hunt had an overwhelming reach with parents posting pictures and videos on Tapestry showing us an array of interesting bugs at home and in their local community. Congratulations again to our Bug Hunt winners! Our favourite activities this year included finding marvelous animals and creatures in our local woods. We discovered, field mice, tadpoles, frogs, fish, minibeasts and birds. The children learnt how to take care of them, researched what they eat and made habitats for them using natural outdoor materials. It's been a wonderful way to educate children about the environment and to develop a deeper understanding and nurturing character.

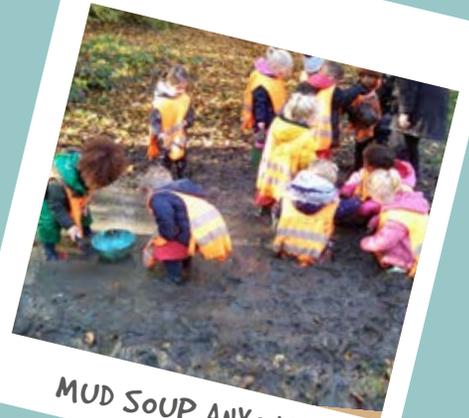
Here are three ways to you can help educate and extend this learning at home with your children.

1. Find simple ways to recognise and enjoy the change of each season (autumn leaf masks are great!)
2. Explore micro-environments (peek under rocks/logs or create a mini trail using sticks and rocks)
3. Care for an animal or plant.

We thank you again for your support and patience during this difficult time. We can't wait to welcome you back in the New year for more exploring and learning. The team at Brentwood wish all of our special families a Wonderful Christmas. Have a Safe & Merry Christmas!



USING NATURAL RESOURCES



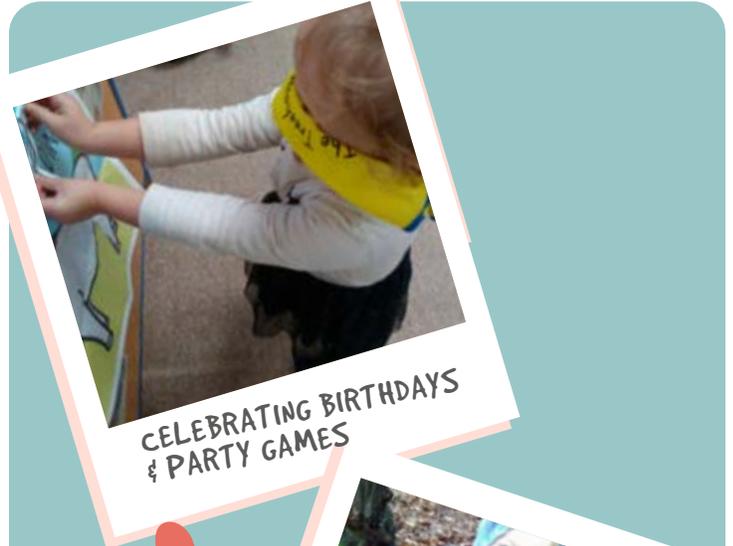
MUD SOUP ANYONE?



FESTIVE ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE



Brentwood



Ingrave Preschool



A BIG WARM WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW INGRAVE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES!

Thank you to our wonderful families at Ingrave for such a fantastic year! Thank you for your ongoing support and all you have done to try and keep things as 'normal' as possible in the current climate for our precious children. Your contribution to our circle times, story reading and photo sharing via tapestry has been a brilliant way to keep our parent partnerships going and the children have loved interacting with all your additions!

A high lights of our year has definitely been our muddy puddle charity event! I'm sure some of you are still trying to get mud out of outfits!! Your support for Children in Need was overwhelming, raising over £1000 for the charity.

The children really got stuck into our theme of Famous Artists, learning about Jackson Pollock and his action painting and Pablo Picasso's pink and blue periods. All the children had the opportunity to try and create their own Pollock/Picasso inspired art and I can confidently say that there are definitely budding artists at Ingrave!

We teamed up with St Nicholas church and collected food to donate to the food bank during our Harvest topic. The Children walked the food up to the Church where they were greeted by Father Paul and as always, enjoyed a chat and laugh with him.

The chilly mornings have meant crisp leaves and frozen spider web exploring, making footprints in the frost and chasing our breath. We are keeping our fingers crossed for snowman building too! The children learned a Christmas poem about a Chubby Little Snowman! What a busy, fun and productive year we have had at Ingrave. We have watched the children become independent learners who have been able to explore their creative minds.



MAKING FRIENDS



OUT AND ABOUT



FEELING FESTIVE



Gallery



LEARNING NEW SKILLS



LEARNING IN THE FRESH AIR!



MAKING FRIENDS & VISITING THE LOCAL CHURCH FOR FOOD DRIVE - HELPING OUR COMMUNITY



KEEP SMILING



Exciting Announcement

MOE | The Woodland Ministry of Outdoor Education launches in January 2021

This year has been extremely busy for The Treehouse Club head office with some exciting advancements behind the scenes. We are proud to announce that after months of development, we have joined forces with an educational equipment manufacturer to create a new entity called MOE - The Woodland Ministry of Outdoor Education.

As an established Nursery and EYFS education specialist, we are harnessing our knowledge and love of 'outdoor education' to reach a larger community. We are providing insight and introducing EYFS ready learning aids alongside beautiful handcrafted and sustainable educational play equipment. These products are ideally suited for indoor and outdoor learning areas in nurseries, preschools, schools, play groups, childminders as well as homes. Following our 'natural philosophy' all MOE products are hand-made with eco-friendly wooden construction and sustainable materials. You may have already seen some of our equipment at our Treehouse settings.

The unique combination of TOC (formerly - Touch of Create) and The Treehouse Club has brought together years of EYFS experience and manufacturing capabilities to create MOE. We will be officially launching in January with a brand new website and social media platforms. Our website will feature; an online shop, bespoke product area, EYFS and education resources, memberships with access to learning aids (free and paid), blogs, news and much more.

There is something for both parents interested in extending learning and play at home in addition to professional EYFS teachers and childcare providers. We hope to grow our educational community, where we bring together likeminded individuals who share our love of outdoor learning, championing environmental awareness, healthy living and wellbeing.

Mike Challis (Director of Products) and Ashley Wilson (Managing Director) added "We are now taking the opportunity to evolve our brand in order to better communicate the depth of expertise that TOC/MOE truly represents and realign with our refined vision and passions." We believe that outdoor play is an essential part of childhood and our learning equipment are designed to inspire and develop physical, social and mental skills.

We'll keep you up-to-date on our MOE launch and products. I hope you take the time to discover our ranges and share our exciting news with friends and family. We have some fantastic 'kid-approved' products that you may be interested in such as: waterwalls, discovery stations, mud kitchens, toddler tables and chairs, work benches, bug hotels, role play stations, toddler climbing frames, playhouses and much more.

We look forward to sharing our new adventure with you. Have any questions? We now have a larger team who are on hand to offer expert advice and answer any questions you may have. Why not drop us an email at info@moeducation.co.uk

LEARN & PLAY
MINISTRY OF
OUTDOOR
EDUCATION



LEARN & PLAY
MINISTRY OF
OUTDOOR
EDUCATION

NEW LOOK

NEW WEBSITE
Formerly TOC (Touch of Create)

With a brand new name comes a brand new website solely focused on what we do best... outdoor learning and play equipment.
www.moeducation.co.uk



Doing things a bit differently this year

#KEEPLARNING #STAYSAFE



EARLY LOOKDOWN INTERACTION ON SOCIAL MEDIA - FROM BRENTWOOD

ONLINE STORY TIME WITH OUR STAFF, HOME LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND SO MUCH MORE.



Your contribution to our circle times, story reading, interaction on social media and photo sharing via tapestry has been a brilliant way to keep our parent partnerships going. We thank you for your ongoing support.



NEW IN-HOUSE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



BRENTWOOD CAKE CUTTING FOR 2ND YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Our Core Values

BUILDING THE TREEHOUSE CLUB FAMILY

- * Always deliver a high well-rounded education.
- * To let every child explore their creative mind.
- * Creating independent resilient learners.
- * Motivated knowledgeable staff team that work with mutual respect and enthusiasm.
- * Committed to natural resources in an eco-friendly environment.

VISION STATEMENT

- * For every child to never forget their childhood and how to have an adventure.

WHY KIDS NEED TO SPEND TIME IN NATURE?

It builds confidence, it promotes creativity and imagination, it teaches responsibility, it provides different stimulation, it gets kids moving, it makes them think and it helps to reduce stress and fatigue.



SOMETHING NEW



CELEBRATING MILESTONES

Feel free to contact us, we would love to hear your feedback and comments:

adventure@thetreehouseclub.co.uk
01277 656 921 (Billericay - Norsey Woods)
01268 956 005 (Wickford)
01277 402 016 (Brentwood)
01277 297 024 (Ingrave)

If you have the time, please leave a review on either Google or Facebook. We would love to hear your comments.