

# NEWSLETTER

SPENCER ACADEMIES TRUST NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS AND STAFF  
APRIL 2023 | ISSUE NO. 2



## WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE:

**Trust Updates**

**Glenbrook Litter Pick**

**Fairfield Disco Donation**



## Trust Updates

**Official Opening:** Castleward Spencer Academy celebrated its official opening on 27 February. Children sang, danced, and displayed artwork celebrating their school, and His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant Elizabeth Fothergill, CBE gave a speech.

**25 Years' Service:** Four members of staff at Inkersall Spencer Academy reached their 25-year landmark. Congratulations to Susan Jacques, Heather Miles, Hayley Southey, and Catherine Kinley, and thank you for all you've done and continue to do!



**GLENBROOK**  
SPENCER ACADEMY

## Glenbrook's Year 1 Participate in Litter Pick

Though the weather didn't co-operate, the rain did little to dampen the enthusiasm of children at Glenbrook Spencer Academy as they embarked upon a litter pick on their school grounds. Armed with buckets and pickers, the children worked in pairs to leave the driveway and paths leading to their school absolutely pristine. "The children loved it," said their teacher Abigail Richardson. "They worked well in teams to make sure they didn't miss a single piece of litter!"



**FAIRFIELD**  
SPENCER ACADEMY

## Robert Ellis Donates Funds for Fairfield's Student Discos

Robert Ellis Estate Agents donated £275 to Fairfield Spencer Academy after a serendipitous business opportunity left them with the opportunity to support local schools.

The estate agency recently received a call from ITV, who was in need of a house in the Nottingham area to use as a film set. They set the film crew up with a suitable location, and the property owner (himself an alumnus of Fairfield) offered to split the cheque—as long as Robert Ellis used their portion to give back to the community.

Fairfield Spencer Academy is now the third school that the agency has supported,

providing funds that address specific needs within the schools. Their gift will go toward funding school discos, which the children absolutely love.

"I really enjoyed all the dancing," said one young man; other children mentioned the fun they had with the foam machine and big bouncy balls. A young lady expressed, "It was lovely to have all the children and staff together having a lovely time."





## Staff Spotlight

Kim Smith, Hannah Baines, and Sarah Hanson shared some insight on their work with forest schools at Ashwood Spencer Academy.

"Forest School provides all learners regular opportunities to achieve and develop their confidence and self-esteem. Sessions are very hands-on learning experiences in natural environments. We have delivered this specialised learning approach that sits within and complements the wider context of our creative curriculum.

The ethos behind Forest Schools is amazing, along with the array of different learning styles. During forest school sessions there is a strong focus on child-initiated, play-based learning, how tools are used and how to teach this to a group, how to create things that can be found in the forest, how to build a fire for both cooking and boiling water.

Our first few sessions ran successfully, the children loved them and were engaged fully, it was amazing to see a different side of them to when they are in classroom.

During forest school sessions, pupils are exposed to space and freedom that they may not otherwise experience. Forest school provides children with cultural capital and the pedagogical approach has benefits in regards to children's health and their development. Forest School has made a massive impact on children that would normally struggle within the classroom and that has shown that even year 6 children can learn through play and exploration."



## Garden Ecosystems

Everywhere you look, there's advice on how to reduce your carbon footprint for the benefit of wildlife (and people!) around the globe. But what about things you can do for the environment closer to home?

Local wildlife is invaluable in maintaining the natural ecosystems in which we live and work, and there's plenty of ways we can contribute—many of which also make fun learning activities for kids. For example, you can use pinecones, peanut butter, and birdseed to make tasty snacks for your backyard birds.

If you're looking for a bigger project, consider filling your garden with indigenous plant species

for wildlife to use for food, nests, and cover. Bats and hedgehogs make great neighbours, as they feed on pesky bugs. To encourage bats to move in, try installing a bat house on the side of your home. Make your garden hedgehog-friendly by creating "hedgehog gates"—hedgehog-sized tunnels that allow the critters to move between gardens—in your fence and building or buying a hedgehog house.

Making your home wildlife-friendly is a great way to help your local environment and provides endless learning opportunities. For more ideas, get in touch with the Wildlife Trust and other organizations.



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