



Learning Without Walls Newsletter



November Edition 2018

Editorial

Welcome to the November edition of the Learning Without Walls Newsletter. This highlights what has been happening with the partnership between NIFSA and The Dufferin Foundation and the world of Forest Schools.

Clandeboye Nature Rangers



<https://www.facebook.com/ClandeboyeNatureRangers/>

Clandeboye Nature Rangers continues to grow from strength to strength. This last month Richard and Lorraine have been busy getting the Rangers involved in lots of exciting activities.



Puppet shows out in the woods at Clondeboye



Making Christmas decorations in the bird hide

Smashing crab apples to plant their seeds at the TCV Tree Nursery



Making bird feeders in the wood

The Clondeboye Nature Rangers is an after-school cross-community facility for North Down and is held every day during the academic year. Holiday programmes are also organised. For more information contact Richard McMeekin, Clondeboye Nature Ranger Manager on richard@learningwithoutwalls.net

Home of the
Forest School Awards



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Forest School Awards



The Forest School Awards is the outreach programme for the Learning Without Walls initiative. Delivering teacher training in outdoor learning to the local community.

<https://www.forestschoolawards.org>

Hall of Fame

Teachers and individuals can undertake the Forest School Leader Level 3 qualification as part of the Forest School Awards. The qualification is recognised across the UK and is accredited by the Open College Network NI.



Joy Elliott from Carrick Primary School in Lurgan receiving her Level 3 Certificate and Official Forest School plaque. Jonathan Henry also successfully completed his Level 3 in the school.

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Martin Gault, VP at Waringstown Primary School, one of our Champion Forest Schools, receiving the Level 3 certificate for Lucille Ewing.



Denise McVeign and Marlene Gattineau Parks Staff from Mid and East Antrim Council receiving their Forest School Leader Level 3 certificates.



Veronica Craig from Moneynick Primary School receiving plaque and Level 3 certificate.

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Zena Walker-Reed receives her Forest School Leader Level 3 certificate. Zena achieved her qualification when working as a volunteer at Morton Community Centre

NIFSA Statistics 2018-19

Since September 2018 we have 50 new schools and organisations registering to become a Forest School and we have actively worked with over 5,000 children outside. Amazing! **Don't forget to complete your Activity Reports in the MIS.**

Forest School Families

This month we have designed a new logo. This will be featured on a new website and promotional materials coming soon.

Others to receive their plaque and certificate are – Patricia Roberts from Taughmonagh Primary School and Lara Moore from Dundonald Primary School.

Forest School Awards Winners

Every month we will give you an update on the impact Learning Without Walls is making. This month 2 new schools became accredited Forest Schools.

Mid and East Antrim Council and Public Health Authority funding

- Home Schoolers
- Ballycarry Primary School
- The Roddens Primary School
- Seaview Primary School, Glenarm
- St Colmcille's Primary School
- Dunlug Primary School
- Whitehead Primary School

Drumlin Coop Community Funding

- Seaview Primary School, Belfast
- Botanic Primary School

Lisburn and Castlereagh Council funding

- Cairnshill Primary School



We are busy discussing ideas and getting ready to launch our Forest School Family at Clandeboye next Spring. Encourage families to register for free on the website

<https://www.forestschoolawards.org/cgi-bin/main.cgi?page=Family%20Zone;vat=1544009467>

Christmas Cookies



Cutting a thin slice of wood from a dried branch make some lovely Christmas decorations with your kids





Muddy Hands Report 2017

Presenting the evidence for outdoor learning and play.

Muddy Hands presents the evidence for outdoor learning and play. It draws on data from the Outdoor Classroom Day 2017 survey, as well as findings from a wide range of literature that highlights the benefits, barriers and solutions to getting children outdoors.

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https://outdoorclassroomday.com/resource/muddy-hands-report/?fbclid=IwAR2BfCU-q7kKlcm4ZirIHfv1GWlCmJnS45lqVenBr_4rSpRCN737Vn-rXHM

Key statistics

- 97% of teachers say that outdoor play is critical for children to **reach their full potential**.
- 88% of teachers say that children are **happier** after playing outdoors.
- 88% of teachers say that children are **more engaged in learning** when taking lessons outdoors.
- 86% of teachers say that playing outdoors gives children a **better understanding of the environment**.



- 44% of teachers have **increased outdoor learning** since getting involved in Outdoor Classroom Day.

Key findings

- Getting outdoors **connects us to the places we live** and the environments we will want to protect.
- Getting outdoors results in **better learning outcomes**, across the board.
- The benefits of outdoor learning and play last **beyond early education**.
- Outdoor learning and play create **healthier, more active children**.
- Time spent outdoors **boosts mental health**.

- d) Free attendance for 2 members to the annual NIFSA conference.
- e) Monthly Learning Without Walls Newsletter.
- f) Entry into the Nature Rangers programme to encourage you to do 6 Forest School sessions every year.
- g) Opportunity to train and mentor other staff within your organisation as Forest School Leaders for only £30 Open College Network registration fee.
- h) We are constantly developing new initiatives and forming new partnerships. We are currently working on Shared Education resources and other exciting programmes. Watch this space.

NIFSA Membership

As a small independent charity operating in Northern Ireland we rely enormously on your membership.

Annual membership is £100 and we believe offers good value for money.

Follow the link to subscribe now!

<https://www.forestschoolorawards.org/cgi-bin/main.cgi?page=NIFSAMembership;vat=1544014101>

What do you get for your membership?

- a) Access to Member's Section of the Forest School Awards website which gives information on outdoor lessons, research and much more.
- b) A section on the website exclusively for your own organisation.
- c) Area to record Forest School activities and produce Eco-Schools Reports.



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