



# Forest Schools

## Sheffield Newsletter, Spring Term 2008

*If you went down to the woods.....*behind High Green School on the cold first week in December you might have wondered what was going on! A group of fourteen teachers were spending the week there learning what it takes to be a Forest School leader. With funding assistance from South Yorkshire Forest the neglected woodland belonging to the school has been brought back into management, fences, gates and a seating circle installed, so that teachers and children can begin to enjoy the educational possibilities of this exciting site. All the teachers, who were mainly from Sheffield, enjoyed the course and were fired up to put what they had learned into action on their own sites. (See the pictures, top right) The Level 2 leader's course that we organised with Archimedes Training was so oversubscribed that a further course was held. The week in December followed a very successful 'taster day' in Norfolk Park attended by thirty teachers.

All this clearly suggests that there is a demand for further support and training in outdoor education. With this in mind we are planning to launch a teachers' support group called **SEEN, Sheffield Environmental Education Network** which will hold termly meetings at different sites to swap ideas and keep up to date with developments. The group will be coordinated by Chris Smith, the Trees and Woodlands Ranger and Coralie Hopwood.



We would like to invite you to the **inaugural meeting of SEEN at High Green School, Wortley Road, on Tuesday 4th March at 4.00 pm.** This will be a chance to look at the new Forest School site in the school's woodland.

Further meetings have been planned for the summer term at Waterphorpe, to see the new straw bail constructed outdoor classroom, and at Ecclesall Infants in the autumn.

There is no need to book but it would be very helpful for catering purposes if you could e-mail [petermachan@hotmail.com](mailto:petermachan@hotmail.com) if you are hoping to attend.



Here's a couple of great shots of children enjoying planting trees in their school grounds in the recent Woodland Trust planting sessions.



To find out more about Forest School Activities go to

[www.foresteducation.org.uk](http://www.foresteducation.org.uk)

