



Know Your Neighbourhood Oak Forest School & Wilderness Skills CIC

Wilderness Skills at it's BEST

We set up our organisation or company, call it what you will, to give young people a fantastic opportunity to get out and engage in the outdoors, to let them explore and see what they have right on their doorstep. Sadly many schools don't have the funding to offer this anymore so it's great that we can help in any way we can and this funding came along at just the right time for us to continue delivering a great programme.

We were able to hold 5 weekly sessions over the school holidays with 80, yes 80, children out onto the Trans Pennine Trail. 25 of our group were venturing out onto the Trail for the first time. Plus a couple of extra activities in October half term. We wouldn't have been able to offer this without the Know Your Neighbourhood funding.

We made sure we checked all their bikes before we headed out onto the TPT for a wonderful adventure – making sure we had regular snack stops along the way (very important for all of us) but also stopping to point out areas of interest along the way, not just the wildlife but also the local history and signing, explain what this meant to the group.

The children we take come from areas of deprivation so very seldom do they get the opportunity that we can provide. One child who joined us was known to be disruptive but the fresh air and freedom gave him a structured environment where he was like a different person. So well behaved but also taking a real interest in what we were saying.

Another child was visiting the Trail for the first time and thoroughly enjoyed it – although they were shattered at the end of the session but it was great to hear that he's going to tell all his family about the Trail and how many new friends he made.

Here's some of the feedback we've had:

*“** has had amazing time. Thanks guys for tiring him out. Credit to all you teachers – just amazing!”*

*“ ** has had amazing time – looking forward to the next one.”*

*“** Thank you so much ** has made some wonderful mates.”*

Getting this kind of feedback from parents really brings it home, how important sessions like these are to children.

Melvin Mills – Oak Forest School & Wilderness Skills CIC



Oak Forest School & Wilderness Skills CIC - Barnsley	
Aim of the Organisation:	Oak Forest School & Wilderness Skills support children and young people to engage in the outdoors. The organisation provides activities which include forest school, bushcraft, cycling and walking and other age appropriate activities for children from the foundation stage to 16+. They work in schools and within the local community, with alternative provision and weekend and holiday club activities.
Contact:	oakforestschool@yahoo.com
Website:	https://oakforestschool.co.uk/
Facebook:	https://www.facebook.com/oakforestschool