

# Vernon Park Christmas tree chipping

This is a Case Study to show how demonstration days can have a positive impact on curriculum in primary schools.



## Information

Client name and details: **Vernon Park Primary School, Stockport.** The demonstration took place on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2016 and lasted for 30 minutes. There were three classes from KS1.

## Project description including project aim

The aim of this project was to give the children an insight into the job of a **tree surgeon** and demonstrated safety equipment and tools that are commonly used. The demonstration coincided with the start of the children's new topic on **recycling**. Key to the time of year, the school contacted parents and asked for Christmas trees that could be chipped, strengthening the **home-school link**.

On the day the children were gathered around the wood chipper where all the safety equipment was explained to them and demonstrated by a team member. Then the children were shown a chainsaw and key components such as the engine, cutting teeth and safety lever. After that we got into the fun bit, demonstrating to the children the sounds and process of a tree being cut into small sections. The cut slices from the trees were then passed around for the children to look at, feel and smell. We then moved on to explaining the wood chipper which was started up for the children to listen to, some of the children tried to explain the smell of the engine using words like smoke and car engine.

While the trees were being put through the chipper we talked about how loud the sound was and what was coming out of the back of the machine. The chippings were then passed around for the children to use their senses to describe the chippings. The children then went back to their classrooms where they wrote in their books about the project which started their topic on recycling.



## Positive outcomes

The demonstration kick-started the recycling topic and caught the children's interest from the beginning. It promoted further learning by inspiring the children to instantly start writing in their school books about the demonstration. Information provided to the children from an expert encouraged the children to take note of what was being said.



The class teacher Mrs Dakin said *'You are the expert and the children listen to what you say. This is also a great learning opportunity for children'*. The demonstration also gives the children insights into other jobs that are available to them and help build for the future. Mrs Dakin added *'It was very well presented and the children wrote in their books that you explained very clearly how to use the wood chipper'*.

## The Future

After a conversation with the class teacher we plan to return to the school half-way through the topic and at the end. The aim is to present some workshops using real tools and safety equipment to create bug habitats with the children.