

Pupils get chance to be Bear Grylls at school

Head teacher also enjoys new outdoor area...

by Ben Francis

bfrancis@guernseypress.com

PUPILS of Elizabeth College's Beechwood and Acorn House schools tested out their new outdoor learning area for the first time on Thursday.

The area has been designed to be a stimulating and fun place for the children to learn outdoor skills.

Reception class youngsters learned how to light a fire and cook over it.

Hot chocolate with toasted marshmallows was the dish of the day.

Head teacher of Beechwood – Elizabeth College's junior school – Jim Walton said that the outdoor area would create memorable lessons for the pupils.

'Do you remember being in maths class?' he said.

'Probably not. You remember the extraordinary.'

A percentage of the curriculum needs to be delivered outside normal classrooms and the outdoor learning area will aim to provide that.

Children will be taught different outdoor skills, such as making fires and chopping wood, and will also take part in more relaxing activities such as story time and painting.

'The children love it because they think they're Bear Grylls for five minutes. I love it because I think I'm Bear Grylls for the whole morning'

Beechwood head Jim Walton

The site was built by the school's maintenance staff with help from some upper school pupils who are undertaking the Sports Leadership Programme.

The cost was minimal, the structure being made primarily of wooden stakes with a canopy made from an old parachute and seating made from tree trunks.

It is expected that the area will expand in the future and the school's parents' association has agreed to fund that.

Mr Walton said the reaction from parents had been universally positive.

'All we hear from parents is that they wish they had something like this at their own schools,' he said.

Pupils were also very pleased about their new outdoor classroom.

'We held marshmallows over the fire to toast them,' said Charlie Krombach, 5.

'It was really fun,' added William Kennedy, also 5.

Mr Walton said the adventurous nature of the area appealed to both pupils and staff equally.

'The children love it because they think they're Bear Grylls for five minutes,' he said. 'I love it because I think I'm Bear Grylls for the whole morning.'



Sheltered under the parachute roof, Acorn House pupils enjoy toasting marshmallows with the school's head chef Nathan Smith. Left to right, Charlie Krombach, Woody Amy and Hamish Donnithorne.

(Picture by Adrian Miller, 11805696)

A PAYG present

Get a smartphone and a tablet for **just £99!**

Includes a £5 top up and a £5 data SIM for your tablet.

Ask in store for details or online at www.sure.com



Pixi 3 tablet

Pixi 3 smartphone

Upgrade to a

4G

phone for
£20

sure.