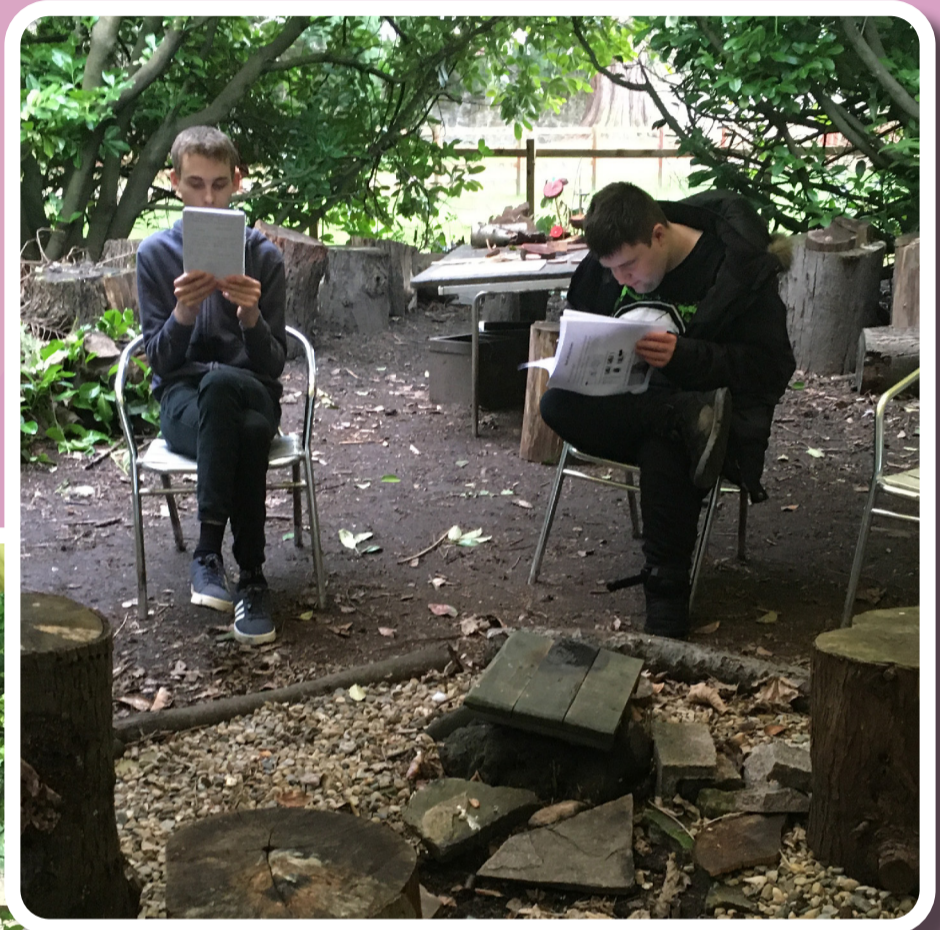


# Forest School Stories

The mystical environment has worked its magic on Max, Michael and Matthew, seen here working away on their stories.



# In the Dead of Winter

It was a dark and stormy night and lightning flashed across the sky. The wind was howling and moaning, blowing a fierce blizzard turning everything white. A huge flash fell across the sky and the lights went dark.

Luckily the emergency lights came on so you could still find your way around to find the emergency torches to check the fuse box. Unluckily the torches and the emergency lighting cast alarming shadows in the gloom. Drawing lots to decide who would go out to check the electrical substation far from the main building into the fierce snow storm, Michael drew the short straw.

Luckily Max immediately volunteered to go with Michael to keep him company. Together as they walked through the blizzard with the snow stinging their eyes Michael fell into a huge hole in the snow. Max went to help pull Michael out of the hole but could not believe his eyes. Pulling Michael out of the hole Max could see it was not a hole but a huge footprint with 10 terrible stinky claws.

Max saw Michael's eyes grow in fear. Max turned to see what was scaring Michael. Looking up, towering over the main building were two burning eyes, a dark black mouth with spikey sharp teeth. The teeth were growing as the figure moved closer and closer to Michael and Max.

Meanwhile Matthew had decided to fetch the keys to the electrical substation which the others had forgotten. Without realising it Matthew had passed the others and arrived at the substation. Remembering what Paul had told him about the fuse box, Matthew could hear the relay clicking and knew he had to use the reset key to turn the power on.

Meanwhile out in the cold, cold snow, the snow monster's great arm reached over the main building as though to grab them both and feed them to the dark mouth and spiky teeth. Max called out for help but no help could be found as the wind blew away their calls for help.

Just at the moment Matthew had reset the power and threw the fuse switch and on came the lights across the college. Immediately the snow monster disappeared. Max and Michael grinned with relief and then howled with laughter as they realised that the snow monster was only in their imagination.

It was all a trick of the light and dark, snow and lightning casting a frightening shadow. Matthew came by and together they returned to the main building ..... not noticing two burning eyes from beyond the castle watching them.

**by Max**

# The Ghost of Dilston

Legend has it when Dilston was a hospital, the soldiers from the great War were looked after by the doctors and nurses. Stories were told of a ghost dressed in black who wandered the corridors.

Everyone was scared of the ghost and every night at 10 o'clock the ghost could be heard banging on the walls and making a terrible noise and every night it was the job of the DM to come and check on the noise and the hullabaloo.

In the dead of winter one dark night the temperature dropped in Riverview and a black figure came through Matthew's wall. The ghost passed the duty manager who screamed in fear. This brought everybody running. "It's a g,g,g,g,g, ghost" said the DM who was looking very pale.

All the lights in Riverview started flashing and everybody was afraid.

Matthew knew that some of the soldiers were from the Royal Signal Corp and used flashing lights to send signals by morse code. This gave Matthew an idea. Using the light switch Matthew sent a message to the soldiers asking if they could do the lights for the Halloween disco.

In morse code the lights flashed yes. On the night of the disco Shirley won the prize for the dancing Queen.

**by Matthew**

# The Beast in the Forest

Once upon a time in a great forest far, far away there lived a terrible Beast, with terrible claws, and terrible paws. The Beast's terrible roar echoed around the forest causing the leaves to tremble on the trees. The people of the forest were terrified of the Beast.

It was the duty of the Mayor of the people of the forest to choose who would be taken to the clearing. And every morning they had to bring one person to the clearing on the edge of the forest and tie them to the post in the clearing. By the next day, all that was left was the rope around the post and everybody wailed and wept.

One day it came to pass that Ian the forester was chosen. Being a good-hearted man Ian was happy to go, as this meant his friends and family were spared the ordeal. Ian asked the Mayor if he could bring his drums to help him through the ordeal and the Mayor could not think of a reason why not.

When the time came Ian was playing wildly and the Beast was pleased and released Ian and took him deep into the woods, where to his amazement he found all the missing people who had been bewitched by the Beast. The Beast loved music and had magical powers to bewitch the people with musical talent and they played late into the evening.

Hearing Ian, the Beast realised that he did not need to keep the people in the forest but they enjoyed the music too and would return to play to him in the clearing. The people were mightily pleased to be going home to see their families and friends but were even more pleased when they realised they would could continue to play in the band.

The next morning Ian led the people back to their homes and everybody was overjoyed. Ian went to see the Mayor and told him of the news and the Mayor wept with joy that the people were well, as he had felt bad about taking the chosen one to the clearing.

**by Michael**