

Smart Trees – A Magical, Educational Winter Wonderland

Located next to the Vale Golf Course in Bishampton, the Smart Trees team have created a Winter Wonderland for all ages. This is more than just entertainment as there is a real message within the experience which is linked to the schools National Curriculum requirements incorporating many aspects of Foundation and Key Stage 1.

At the start of the visit each child is given a map (appropriate for ages 2-8, suitable for special needs). They then embark on an orienteering based Animal Hunt through the 20 acre Christmas tree plantation searching for clues and of course animals! The children are also given the opportunity to experience a tractor and trailer ride which is a truly amazing experience.

On completion of the Hunt it's time to head to the welly wash then into the indoor forest where you can meet the very friendly Reindeer along with their babies. Then meander through the trees catching falling bubbles and snow before pausing at the talking wishing well to make a wish. Look for smoke puffing out from the chimney of Santa's Grotto. You'll find him sat next to his roaring fire, cheeks all a glow, a smile and a gift for every child.

Each year we attempt to make improvements by changing the Trail and adding new attractions such as Natural Play Area, Boat, Maze and improving all facilities. We are open for pre booked school trips from November through December.

**For more information visit www.smarttrees.co.uk or call Dawn on 01386 462706.
Next to the Vale Golf Course signposted off the A44 WR10 2LZ.**



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Jolly Phonics Review by Karen Craven

I have a 4 year old who is starting school in September and My Jolly Phonics Home Kit couldn't have arrived at a more opportune time. My son Daniel seems to be taking after the whole family with his love of books so I thought we could do the review together.

The Jolly Phonics Home Kit comprises a Jolly Stories book, DVD, songs CD and songbook, poster, Games CD and Activity Books 1-7. It is all packaged in a wonderful fabric carry case and if you look inside Snake's mouth you will find triangular grip pencils specially made for little fingers.

We started by putting the poster up on the wall and the songs CD on in the car. Straightaway Daniel started copying the sounds of the letters and picked up the songs extremely quickly. It was great to drive along hearing his singing and having fun whilst learning his letters.

The Jolly Phonics DVD introduces children to the enchanting world of Inky Mouse where she shows her friends Snake and Bee how to read and write. Daniel loves the DVD and laughs out loud at their antics. As I write this, he has taken it to pre-school with him to watch with his friends. Daniel says "I like Snake best because he's good and he scares Inky sometimes". As a parent I am reassured that, whilst I am cooking dinner, he is not just watching another DVD but he is enjoying learning without realising it.

The Jolly Stories are great reading and encourage discussion with a story, listening and repeating sounds, tracing the letters and blending/reading words whilst the Activity Books are great fun and systematically reinforce what your child has learnt. We will be taking the first two Activity Books on holiday with us.

For more information visit www.jollylearning.co.uk.

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Tonia Peters
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