

Nicky Dowd

Artist in Residence

Warren Farm Nursery Exterior Mural

Area to be transformed was a tired peeling wall of the Nursery Portacabin and ugly metal container in the playground area. The initial discussions with staff confirmed the exploration of subjects for me to present a series of designs which were proposed to the school and a budget agreed.

The subjects chosen were to encourage roll play in the outside play area.

- A kitchen /dining room.
- Boys and Girls themed bedroom and Bathroom.
- A tropical Jungle.
- A shop.
- Petrol station with interactive spanner and petrol pump.

Thirteen 8' x 4' panels were then painted away from the School with areas left for parents and children to collaborate in a variety of tasks, giving them a sense of ownership and pride in the finishing result.

The Murals encourage conversation and vocabulary development improving education about health, safety, diet, social interaction, climate, the food chain, sustainability, environment, geography, maths and imagination.

Quality time for Mums, Dads, Granddads, Grandmas, siblings, aunts and uncles to work with the children were timetabled in to increase confidence and improve relationships.

The entire school had the opportunity to observe the development of the design and an excited buzz vibrated throughout as the project progressed.

Making sponge shapes we printed leaves, paw prints, and flowers. Lollipop sticks created stems and grass. Cut potatoes became gravel, a vileda mop head made giant ants and little finger prints became a meadow whilst hands prints created the roof tiles effect. We explored textures, techniques and painting skills.

Discussed colour, contrast and art activities to try at home

Tel: 00 44 7974 139 228

Email: nicky@ourhayloft.co.uk

www.nickydowd.com