

# Play Gloucestershire Report Card: Bourton-on-the-Water Parish Council

Monitoring Period: October to December 2019



Play Gloucestershire is the local charity that helps children and families to Get Out and Play! Our mission is to transform children's lives using the power of outdoor play. We believe that outdoor play is an essential part of a happy and healthy childhood, and benefits children, families, schools and communities. Our Play Rangers provide active and creative play in urban and rural communities in the Cheltenham, Cotswolds, Forest of Dean, Gloucester, Stroud and Tewkesbury districts. Activities are both school and community based, providing adventure, friendship and fun for hundreds of young people each year. School aged children and their families are the beneficiaries of our work. We particularly support children from disadvantaged and rurally isolated communities, and those living in challenging circumstances.

Play Gloucestershire's Play Rangers work year round in Bourton-on-the-Water delivering afterschool and school holiday play sessions. The work is kindly funded by Bourton-on-the-Water Parish Council through to March 2020.

## How much did we do?

- We have provided **10 after school and 1 half day play sessions**
- Totalling **22.5 hours of play**
- With **228 play visits**
- **100% Reliability** in **all weathers**

## How well did we do it?

**"What's for snack tonight?"** Kian, aged 6

**"It's my birthday next Wednesday! I get to have my birthday with the Play Rangers!"** Molly, nearly 11

**"I'm so tired, this game has been so much fun!"** Andy, aged 8, after a long and muddy game of bull dog

## Have we made a difference to children and young people?

- Play in community setting allows for different members of the community to engage with each other, for example dog walkers chatting with children at play
- Playing outside in all weather conditions and in the dark enabling children and young people to build a stronger connection with and respect for the natural world
- Unique relationships between our Play Rangers and the children and young people attending sessions who test our boundaries in search of consistent and dependable adult role model
- Providing emotional support through life's ups and downs - school transitions, exam pressure, relationship issues. Listening with empathy and offering support or signposting when required
- Increased resilience through outdoor active play with a varied age group from the local community who may not normally play together
- Creative and imaginative play with loose parts that can be loud, large and lively as required or calm quiet spaces that they don't usually have access to
- We promote active and healthy lifestyles with a range of activities and snacks. This combination improves mental and physical health, providing a sense of increased wellbeing
- Positive Social Return Investment (SRI) of community play sessions, changing the way sites are used, increasing recreation and activity.
- Providing volunteering opportunities to young people who in turn role model positive behaviour among their peers

## Weekly Play Session User Numbers

\* School Holiday Sessions

	Ages 10 and under	Ages 11 +
2nd October	17	2
9th October	15	7
16th October	13	14
23rd October	10	8
30th October*	19	10
13th November	19	13
20th November	11	10
27th November	11	5
4th December	12	8
11th December	7	9
18th December	2	6

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### Play Ranger Log sheet extracts:

*9th October* - a quieter session today which gave me an opportunity to really spend some time with certain kids on an individual basis. There was no kit at all today due to behaviour last week but it really didn't matter. A teacher of some of the children from the primary school has died and the whole school is upset, especially the children from his class. Dave had taken a photo of him from a school notice board, the others told him off but I shared that I appreciated seeing who he was. We spent some time talking about this and they were able to steer the conversation to share their happy memories of him. After the conversation Dave handed me the photo of the teacher and said he didn't need it anymore (one of the girls will take it back to school). I'm glad that we were able to provide the space for these conversations to take place, it was needed.

27th November - the site was like a bog today, puddles of water ankle deep and mud almost everywhere, it made space to play for some quite hard whilst others chose to use our parachute as a sleigh and took turns to ride on it as others dragged it through the mud patches.

When it got dark we used our torches to play shadow puppets which Dom absolutely loved, I made a dinosaur which chased his shadow around the wall and made him laugh so much!

We spent a lot of time around the fire tonight as everyone was quite cold, and hungry! The kids we see on this site always eat well, but with some we see a real need for food. We had 3 loaves of bread and got through it all. I watched Adam and his little brother Rich enjoy helping themselves freely to the plentiful food which doesn't always happen when we have larger numbers attending.

