

## Carbon Footprint

The aim of this project was to work with a tree planting company; to plant trees to offset the paper based products our business uses – timetables, reservation tickets, place mats in first class etc. Out of this we identified and decided to work with Carbon Footprint, whom we gifted £20K. With this funding they purchased 2800 trees which they have planted at 32 schools up and down the LNER route from Inverness down to London. Please see Appendix C.

We also had chance to be invited to take part in a Tree Planting event at Weston St Mary's Church of England School, which is based in Spalding. It was really fun day had by all involved, and great to see how excited and interested the kids were in planting the tree. The trees planted will create a small wooded area which will be a massive benefit and provide learning opportunities for the school and all future generations that attend the school. Sustainability and protecting the environment are core values for LNER and we're focused on having a positive impact in the regions we serve.



**John Buckley, Managing Director at Carbon Footprint** said:

“LNER are taking a very responsible step in supporting native tree planting in the UK - and what better way to do this than in local schools, engaging kids as the environmental ambassadors of the future.”

Planting trees at schools is a perfect opportunity to get the kids involved and to teach them about biodiversity and the importance of trees. The planting itself is also great fun for the kids, as they get stuck in with an interactive activity outside the classroom. Following the planting the children can help look after the trees whilst they grow, maybe by providing some water during any extended dry periods. As the trees grow many schools bring the monitoring of the trees into the lessons. E.g. In Maths and Science they can measure the growth of the trees during the different seasons of the year.

Planting trees not only provides massive benefits for the schools, but also for the local environment and eco system.

- Trees are essential to maintaining our climate and biodiversity. Trees contribute to the global environment by improving air quality, conserving water, preserving soil, and supporting wildlife. During the process of photosynthesis, trees take out carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and produce the oxygen we breathe; and
- Trees are the largest plants on the planet and the longest living species on earth, providing a link between the past, present and future. Some Oak trees for instance can live for over 1000 years, so a woodland planted today could easily outlive all of us and provide a long term carbon store.
- As the trees planted will provide children with shaded areas from the sun and also reduce noise;
- They provide homes for insects and other invertebrates;
- They provide wildlife corridors – such areas can help small animals and birds move from tree to tree until they find a safe habitat to nest in;
- As well as sequestering carbon dioxide, trees also act as a physical filter trapping dust and absorbing pollutants from the air improving the air quality for the children; and
- Research has also shown that trees help to reduce stress.