



## **Article for DMAT website Dec 2018**

The School has focussed attention over the last couple of years on its ability to offer enhanced support to those pupils who may be facing emotional challenges on a variety of levels. As well as working with the Mindfulness in School charity to improve emotional resilience, the School has started to capitalise on its training through its involvement with the DMAT's YMCA programme. Two of our TAs have already undergone this training, and more will follow; however, a stumbling block had been an appropriate place within the School in which to conduct such support. The School has been fortunate to have had Mrs Laura Tunmer (TA in year 2) project manage the acquisition and building of our new Nurture Hut (a.k.a. the 'Hobbit Hut!') over the summer, and we are pleased to say that this is now in regular use for emotional resilience intervention and 1:1 counselling. This has been kitted out with appropriate soft furnishings, mood lighting and scenic backdrops, and we are proud to say that it has already having a very positive impact. We now even have a therapy dog in the form of Frieda who has made herself quite at home; perhaps it should be called the 'Therapy Kennel'!

