

## Autumn Term at Forest School 2023

It always amazes me how we start the term in the glow of late summer and end it in the dark days of winter. Those few weeks really demonstrate how lucky we are to really experience and appreciate the changing seasons at Forest School. This term Nursery, Reception, Year One, Three and Five have had weekly sessions in our little woodland and I'm delighted with how much the children's connection and respect for nature has grown. We started the term sheltering from the sun and before we knew it we were ankle deep in mud and wrapped up against the cold. The rain has been our biggest challenge this term - I really can't remember a wetter Autumn term - but the children have just (literally) got stuck in. You have to experience the wet and cold days to appreciate the dry and warm ones.

Here are just a few of the things we got up to this term.....

Nursery went on a 'Bear Hunt' and made a wonderful collage of 'long wavy grass', 'deep, cold water', 'thick, oozy mud' and a 'deep, dark forest'.



They splashed in puddles on a really rainy day, found and played with sycamore seeds (helicopters) on a windy day and have become increasingly more confident and inquisitive during 'explore time'.

Reception made stick 'Superworms' and pinecone 'Owl Babies'.



They made nests and other homes and habitats for woodland creatures and worked brilliantly together to make a bridge for the 'Enormous Turnip'.

Year One are now very confident in our little woodland and their 'explore time' has become increasingly more mature and constructive.



We made nature inspired memory sticks and beautiful transient art.

Year Three used soap to have a go at 'knapping' stone age tools and used other tools to make Elder wood 'snakes'.



The children showed great determination (with some success) when learning to use fire steels on a damp day.

Year Five made impressive Egyptian pyramids and shadufs and used saws and palm drills to make mini Xmas trees.



We've really needed our wellies and waterproofs this term and no doubt we will continue to be battling the elements when we return in the Spring.....but at least we will have the promise of Spring weather to look forward to.