

Forest School—Term 6

Newsletter

Term 5 & 6 saw Forest School flourish in the warm weather! We had a wealth of wildlife using the site, which the children enjoyed observing including newts, slow worms, fox cubs and a variety of insects and birds including buzzards. It seems all the work we have been doing as a school to increase the biodiversity of our school grounds is really paying off. It has been a busy few terms, so here is a round up of what we have been up to.

Forest School News

Over the Easter holidays, the willow dome was finally planted and the wet weather in April has certainly helped it to flourish. The children have loved seeing it grow and are already using it for many different purposes - it has been a den, a quiet reading space, a space ship, a bakery, a bug observation station and has had many other creative uses!



Hoo St Werburgh
Primary School



Learning update

Year 5 & 6

During term 5, Year 5 were set the challenge of making water filters after discussing the changing world we live in and how in the future clean water may be a serious challenge for the world to face. They set about using layers of sand, gravel, charcoal and grass to filter their water with varying levels of success. Sharks and Lions also practised their fire lighting skills in term 5 and cooked popcorn on their fires. In term 6, the classes have been making zip wires for teddies, a task which they took on with great enthusiasm. The children worked collaboratively to

construct the zip wires, they had to problem solve issues they came across such as branches being in the way etc and there was some amazing discussions about friction and forces. What a great way to revise some key scientific concepts.



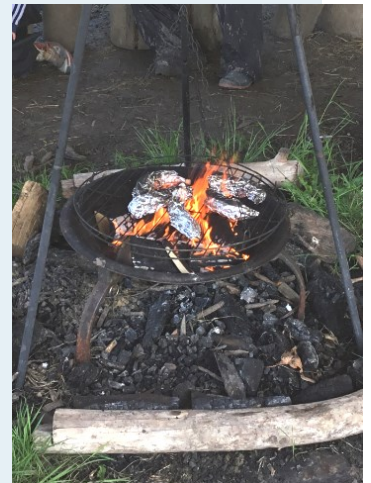
Year 6 used their Forest School time in term 5 to use the tools to make sea glass jewellery, after discussing pollution in our rivers and oceans. They used the wire cutters to cut lengths of craft wire and wrapped it around the locally found sea glass to create some very creative pieces of jewellery. They also spent another session building their own models of rivers using sand, soil and gravel. They created the models and used their geographical knowledge to label key features of their river systems before putting water on them to see how the rivers flowed. This led to lots of great discussions about meanders, flooding erosion and deposition, which was a great way to revise key concepts before their trip to the River Darent in term 6.



Year 3 & 4

Year 4 spent some time at Forest School developing their 'Creative minds' in term 5. They started by undertaking some free art in the outdoors, creating some fantastic water colour landscape paintings and leaf rubbings. They then moved on to having a go at some tie dye using natural pigments such as berries, dandelions & beetroot. The tie dyed material turned out great and has now been turned into bunting to decorate the base camp shelter. Finally, Ocelots and Wolves had a go at Nordic weaving, a traditional weaving process that involved great team work and communication as the strands have to be swung back and to with a partner in a specific order. The resulting yarn was then turned into friendship bracelets, hair braids and zipper pulls. In term 6, Year 4 attended 'Rainforest School' to aid their in-class learning. They have made Amazonian tribal masks using clay and natural materials as well as elder bead snakes.

Year 3 have also been busy with a Mayan hieroglyph challenge to start term 5 and then moved onto cooking Fairtrade chocolate banana snacks on the campfire, which they LOVED! In term 6, Polar Bears and Tigers have been extending their classroom learning about the life cycles of plants and insects by making bee and butterfly crafts, searching for butterflies and other flying insects and playing the 'be a bee' game, where they collected nectar and spread pollen to replicate being a bee.



Year 1 & 2



Term 5 saw year 1 pretending to be Jack from Jack and the beanstalk. They climbed the beanstalk (ladder in the trees), built their own beanstalk using natural materials and swung in the giants hammock! They also extended their in-class learning about plants by finding leaves and bashing the pigment out of them using hammers, discussing the shape and colour of each leaf as they went. Hedgehogs and Rabbits finished the term making their own 'Wild thing' clay heads, linked to the story book they had been reading in class. The children used some great initiative to create the heads using the natural materials around them to enhance their designs. In term 6, year 1 began the term by reading the story 'Lost and Found' in class, so at Forest School they used the palm drills to make small boats like the one in the story. They used bark, sticks, pipe cleaners and tape for their boats with people, life rings and sharks all being added to make the boats unique. We discussed floating and sinking and waterproofing, all of which are key scientific concepts in year 1. Year 1 also used their resilience to make friendship bracelets with a partner after reading the story 'Incredible You.' They then gave their friendship bracelets to each other and told their friend why they think they are incredible! This was such a lovely thing to witness with lots of the children showing real kindness.

Year 2 have been equally busy with both Owls and Robins using their Forest school time to extend their in-class learning about insects and plants during term 5 and 6. They began term 5 with a visit to Broomhill park, where the classes investigated what lived in 3 different habitats including trees, woodland floor and long grass. They used sweep nets, shaking sheets and magnifying pots to investigate. They then compared these habitats to the same habitats at Forest School and found there were lots of differences between the two locations. Both classes then moved on to making their own insect hotels to hang in the trees around school. In term 6, we moved on to learning about the plants living at Forest School by collecting a variety of leaves and identifying them before creating leaf rubbings and prints using the leaves. The classes also Investigated a range of herbs growing in the sensory area at Forest School by making smelly potions, they came up with some really interesting concoctions.

EYFS

During term 5 & 6, Foxes and Badgers have spent some of their Forest School time undertaking projects to enhance their outdoor areas in the Reception classrooms. They used tools to drill drainage holes into the bottom of old welly boots to make planters for the fence and used litter pickers to make the space cleaner and tidier for everyone. It's really important that we teach our youngest learners to respect and care for the environment and they certainly accepted the challenge.

Reception have also had lots of fun at Forest School, making snails from clay inspired by their super six story 'Snail and the Whale'. The children loved finding natural materials that were pointy to make the clay snail antennae. They also went on a snail hunt and were surprised to find lots of them near the compost bin. They spent lots of time observing how the snails move and what they look like underneath, using the magnifying glasses and they even held a snail race!

During term 6, we followed the children's obvious interest for bugs and went looking for flying insects using the sweep nets. They chased butterflies and grasshoppers through the long grass and identified what they had caught, as well as enjoying climbing, building, swinging and socialising with our friends

And Finally...

As we once again come to the end of the school year, we wanted to thank all the mums, dads and carers out there that make forest school possible week in week out by ensuring their child has the correct clothing and kit available to them, allowing the children to focus on their play and learning. THANK YOU!

If you plan to replace any kit over the summer, we would be very happy to accept donations of any good quality waterproof trousers and larger welly boots (we have plenty of coats and small wellies thanks) as much of our school kit is showing signs of wear and tear. This spare kit can then be used for those who are unable to provide their own or if someone forgets their own kit. **TOP TIP** - If you are replacing waterproofs for next year, buy a size bigger than needed, so your child can fit their warm winter coat under their waterproof coat in the winter months to help them keep warm.

