



Words from the Wildwood

Forest School Newsletter December 2023

Forest School Autumn 2023

The Wild Wood is looking very wintery at this time of year; the wood chip has been covered with a layer of leaves, some of the trees are completely bare and there are fewer green plants at ground level (no snow yet). Year 1 enjoyed using our forest school area and by October half term, had improved their attention and participation skills. After half-term, it was Year 5's turn. They used their previous forest school knowledge and new skills, to move their understanding on.

September/October: Year 1

Year 1 were very enthusiastic during their forest school sessions and with much encouragement, were able to respond to the instructions given. Under close supervision, they split wood using a bill hook and a mallet (wood that we used to burn on our campfire during our final session). With help, they constructed some well-designed dens. I harvested some elder from the Wild Wood and the children pushed its pith out of small sections of it (using a tent peg). They then used these sections to make a necklace. We also created colour palettes and toasted marshmallows on our campfire.

November/December: Year 5

The children revised how to stow a rope and then learnt how to tie a reef knot. They whittled pencils which they then dipped into charcoal mixed with water and wrote with them. They also completed a leaf and tree identification activity. Some of the children made dens. Many of the children made swings and each week, the design of the swings became increasingly more intricate and the construction of them became more skilfully completed.

Y5 also helped me to build a camp fire and we all enjoyed a marshmallow s'more (marshmallow sandwiched between two half biscuits).



Wood splitting (Y1)



Den building (Y1)



Elder Necklace (Y1)



Stowing a small rope (Y5)



Pencil whittling/Charcoal writing (Y5)



Tree identification (Y5)