

Woodlands Academy of Learning Forest School & Outdoor Learning News

Volume 11 Issue 2



Nursery, Santa's Little Helpers

This half term Nursery had an important mission to complete for Santa. The children received an Email telling them that some of Santa's elves had ran off and were playing in 'The Nook' at Woodlands. Nursery's good elf told us where we could find them, so the children put on their coats and wellies and made their way to the fire circle ready to find the naughty elves. The children described the elves so that they knew what they were looking for and then they set off. The children searched holes, trees and bushes looking for each elf. But when they found each one they did not want to be put into the box to go back to the North Pole. The children knew they had to find six elves and they counted each one as they were found. But number six could not be found anywhere. It was only when we went to cover up the fire wood for the winter that the children found him sitting on the wood shed. Our fantastic office staff quickly posted the elves back to Santa, only then could the children sit down and enjoy a well earned snack. Great work Nursery.



Saplings Make a Rudolf for Christmas.

Our Tree House children have been making decorations for their Christmas trees this half term. Before we could make our reindeers, the children had to go and find some interesting twigs to make the reindeers antlers.

Once we had found these we could paint our wood cookies and glue on our reindeers' eyes, nose, ears and most importantly our interesting sticks for antlers. The children worked very hard to make their decorations and I'm sure you will agree they made a great job of them. Well done.



Important Dates:

Year Five Forest School—

Wednesday mornings.

Mr Hand's class will be

7th & 21st January and 4th February.

Mrs Day's Class will be

14th & 28th January and the 11th February

Wednesday afternoons

Year Four Forest School

Mrs Newton's Class will be

7th & 21st January and 4th February.

Mrs Rich's Class will be

14th & 28th January and 11th February.

Forest School Rangers for this half term.

Nursery— Darcy, Reuben

Reception— Albie, Grace

Year Three — Ella Rose, Jeevan

Saplings— Kristofer, Mehtab

Year Three Christmas Coordinates.

Christmas coordinates is one of our children's favourite Forest School activities. The challenge includes solving Christmas puzzles and riddles. For each correct answer the children are given a coordinate to find on their maps which is a familiar landmark in Rough Wood. The children have to follow the trail answering questions and finding locations until the final destination is found. Where a popular Christmas celebrity has left a treat for the children. It is a good way of teaching the children an important maths skill, whilst encouraging cooperation and team work.



Reception Have a Magical Time.

This term our Reception children have been learning how to stay safe in the Forest School fire circle. The children learn how to make their campfire by working together and carrying their sticks safely. This term we do not use real fire, we have a magic fire on which we cook hot chocolate. This enables the children to learn the rules of the fire circle and fire safety. The children really enjoy collecting their firewood and enjoy the hot chocolate and biscuits even more. This activity prepares the children for the summer term when we cook waffles with melted chocolate over the campfire. The children can't wait.



What to Look Out For.

Conservation

Christmas is a very busy time of year, but it is also a good time of the year to go out and connect with nature. This year the Wild life Trust is running their 'Twelve Days of Christmas' challenges. So if you can't think of anything to do over Christmas why not take a look at their website for information. Or you can just take a walk in the park or green spaces in your local area. You will be surprised at what you can find at this time of year.



We are now in the season of winter and we can expect some chilly nights. Water is so important to our wild life at this time of year, so try to remember to leave a dish out for them when the weather is icy. Now is a great time to spot garden birds as many trees have no leaves and the wildlife can be seen easily. Why not use the spotter sheet <https://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-07/gbirds.jpg>

To see what birds you can spot. There are also lots of great ideas online to make feeders to attract more birds into your garden. So why not give it a try.

