



## Woodlands Academy of Learning

### Forest School & Outdoor Learning News

#### Year Five Construct Nests With a Difference

Year five have been getting to grips with building nests with a difference. The children have been learning about life cycles. One life cycle they have studied was that of birds. So the children had a go at building nests for themselves.



The activity required team work and to prove how clever



birds are the children could only use tweezers (like a birds beak) to make their nests.

The children had to consider where they would site their nest, what materials would protect the developing eggs. How they would make the



mother bird comfortable and how they would keep the eggs warm.

The children had a great time working to complete their nests, many of which had very interesting additional features.

As the children worked we discussed the different nesting

materials birds will use to make their nests and in some instances some birds make no



nests at all, but their eggs have adapted to the environment such as steep cliff faces.

The team work was excellent and the nests were very impressive.

Well done Year Five.

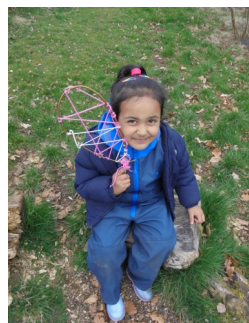


#### Reception Are In For A Good Nights Sleep.

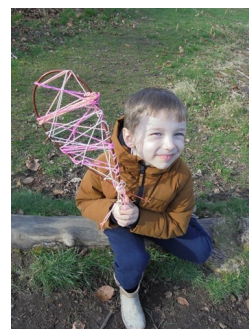
This half term our Reception children had the secret for a good nights sleep. They have been making their own dream catchers.



This is a tricky activity as it takes lots of patience. The activity involved weaving on a loop which is fiddly for little fingers. But once the children got the hang of it there was no stopping them. The children wanted to add more and more colours.



Each of the children took their dream catchers home and many of the children came back to tell me where they had hung them in their homes.



Well done Reception

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#### Forest School Rangers for This Half Term

Nursery— John, Millie

Reception— Mason, Bani

Year Four — Evie, Serina

Year Five— Mia, Alfie

Forest School Dates For Next Half Term.

Year Three —Monday Mornings

Miss Adam's Class

Monday 28th April, 19th May

Mrs. Golightly's Class

Monday 12th May, 21st May

Reception Tuesday Afternoons

Letters will be sent to participating groups.

Nursery is Friday Afternoons.

Saplings are Friday Morning on 2nd May, 9th May and 16th May.

## Year Five Naturalists In The Making.

Year Five have learned about naturalists. Could you name one? Some of the ones we looked at were Charles Darwin, Chris Packham, Steve Backshall and of course Sir David Attenborough. The children considered the



qualities that a naturalist would need and discussed how to carry out a field study.



When we went to Rough Wood, the children split into teams and each team carried out a field study of their given area.

The children were brilliant they used binoculars to look for bird life and lenses to investigate the invertebrate population.



Our most exciting finds were a newt, frog and toad and one team found spider eggs.

Great work Year Five I think Woodlands has some budding naturalists.



## Year Four Go Looking For 'Daft Ducks'.

To end Year Fours Forest School we carried out an activity called 'Daft Ducks'. On the Forest School site there were lots of comic Easter ducks hidden and each had a question around their necks. Each of the questions drew on the children's learning over the last few weeks and also conservation questions to discuss.



The children tackled the challenges in teams, ticking off each one until all the challenges were completed. So much was covered during the session, food chains, classification, plant and animal identification to name just a few.



The children rose to the challenge and tackled each one with enthusiasm. Not only did the children have fun but they also demonstrated how much they had learned.

Well done Year Five super learning.

### Conservation

#### Nest News

A few weeks ago a blue tit was seen checking out one of our new nest boxes. So we were hoping for the flutter of tiny wings. Sadly when the boxes were checked one of our boxes was found to be chewed around the entrance hole and there was no sign of the birds. Squirrels may have been the culprit and the parent birds have left the nest. But don't worry we will be ready for them next year. When the nesting season is over we will put metal plates on our boxes to stop predators. So let's hope for better luck next year.



### What to look out for.

We are now well into spring and many of the flowers are blooming and the trees are coming into leaf so why not use these spotter sheets to see what you can find. [Spring flower identification for kids – Nature Detectives Blossom and catkin identification for kids – Nature Detectives](#)

Also with this warmer weather our invertebrates are starting to live up. Keep your eyes open for queen bumble bees looking for nest sites and before long Rough Wood will have a carpet of bluebells for everyone to enjoy.

