



Woodlands Academy of Learning

Forest School & Outdoor Learning News

Year Five Show Materials Matter

Year five have been looking at the properties of materials.



And to put their knowledge to the test we set them a challenge to build a home for a gnome using natural materials and a selection of man made materials.



They were asked to use the materials in the most appropriate way by considering their properties. The shelters needed to be waterproof, insulated from the cold and the inhabitants needed to be protected from the elements.



As the children built their shelters they had to justify their reasons for the use of the materials and evaluate their constructions.



The children discussed how they could be improved and how they might construct them differently.



Each of the shelters was carefully constructed and a lot of thought had gone into their designs. Well done Year 5

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Forest School Rangers for This Half Term

Nursery— Henry, Hudson, Harris, Zachary

Reception— Ollie, Effy

Year Four — Zara, Serina

Year Five— Jake, Amelia

Forest School Dates For Next Half Term.

Year Four —Monday Mornings

Mrs Rich's Class

Monday 24th February, 10th & 24th March

Mrs Newton's Class

Monday 3rd, 17th & 31st March

Year Five—Friday Mornings

Mrs Hoccom's Class

Friday 28th February, 14th & 28th March.

Miss Harvey's Class

Friday 7th & 21st March, 4th April

Reception Tuesday Afternoons

Letters will be sent to participating groups.

Nursery is Friday Afternoons.

Nursery Look After Our Woodlands Birds

This half term our Nursery children have really looked after our feathered friends at Woodlands.

The children made their own bird cakes to help the birds to survive the really cold weather. They used fat and seeds, mixing them together and squashing the mixture into pine cones



Over the last few weeks we have noticed more small birds in our trees and our bird cakes are being eaten.



The children also fed the bigger birds and used the binoculars to see what birds they could see.



They really liked caring for the birds and said they would like to do it again.

Why not make some bird cakes for your garden and see what birds are attracted to the food. You might be surprised.

Reception Have High Expectations

Reception have been working in teams for their activities in Rough Wood. They have undertaken the Towering Twig challenge.

To do this you need to find lots of sticks of various sizes. Then build your tower using a pattern.



It takes a lot of problem solving as you need to get the pattern right to make your tower stable and use the right thickness of sticks.



The children found that the thick chunky sticks were best for the bottom of the tower and the thin light ones are good for the top.. Each stick has to be placed carefully as at

any moment the tower can fall down.



It was interesting to see the children organise themselves. Some liked to collect the sticks, others concentrated on the building. Every child was engaged and the staff were very competitive encouraging their teams to build the highest. Well done Reception great team work and perseverance.



Year Four Classification Conundrum

Would you know your reptile from your amphibian, your insect from your arachnid. Well that is what Year 4 have been doing this half term. The children have been learning the characteristics of each animal classification and then applying their knowledge.



Just to make it more tricky the children had to follow a map of the woods using coordinates and at each destination they had to classify each mystery animal. To do this the children had to think carefully about the animals characteristics.



To take our learning deeper we discussed if the animals were herbivores, carnivores or omnivores. We also considered if they were predators, prey or both.



The children have also linked this learning to there learning about habits and have considered what woodland animals eat and drink and how they find shelter.



Well done Year 4, next half term we will be having a close look at food chains and food webs.

Conservation

New Year, New Crew

This half term our Woodlands classes chose their representatives for our Woodlands Conservation Crew.

Our new crew members are Year 1—Daphne & Delilah, Year 2—Sophia & Lilian Year 3 Isla E & Annabelle, Year 4—Jude & Ethan Year 5 Ella Sophia & Angel Year 6 Jack & Ayla

I'm sure they are already brimming with ideas for helping nature on our Woodlands site.



What to look out for.

It may be early but the birds at Woodlands are starting to look for nest sites. There was great excitement when a blue tit was spotted checking out our nest box named 'Geoff'. So when you are out and about why not look for signs of nest building. See if you can identify the builders by using the identification chart [Garden bird identification for kids - Nature Detectives](#). Or you could make a nest on the ground yourself to see how clever birds really are.

Remember not to disturb nesting birds as they may abandon their eggs or their chicks.

