



## Woodlands Academy of Learning

# Forest School & Outdoor Learning News

## Nursery Leaf Crowns.

This week before all the beautiful autumn leaves were blown away Nursery had fun throwing the leaves and watching



them blow away in the wind. They then went exploring looking at all the different leaf shapes and colours they could find.

Using card and double sided tape each of the children made their own leaf crown, by sticking the leaves all around the card.



As the children made their crowns they talked about all the autumn things they could see and hear. They talked



about what season it would be next and how the animals are preparing for the winter time.



I'm sure you will agree the Nursery children's crowns look very splendid and they all look very regal.

Next half term we will be making bird feeders for our feathered friends to help them to survive the winter. So don't forget to feed the birds during the holidays.

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## Forest School Rangers for This Half Term

**Nursery— Joshua, George**

**Reception— Evan, Esmail**

**Year Three— Henry, Sophie**

**Dates for next half term**

**Year 4 —Monday Morning**

4N— 8th January, 22nd January

4R— 15th January, 5th February

**Year 5— Thursday Afternoon**

5HA— 18th January, 1st February

5HO— 25th January, 8th February

Nursery & Reception letters will be issued.

## Year Two—Finding the Ages of Our Trees.

One way of aging a tree is to count its growth rings. But by using team work, measuring and maths the ages of trees can be calculated for trees that are still living.



This is what our Year Two children did in the woods. They knew that the trees with the biggest girths were the oldest trees. So together they measured them and using a magic calculation they could find the trees age.



Some of the trees they found were over a hundred years old and one or two were over two hundred years old. Together we talked about what life was like when the trees first began to grow, no computers, cars and we would all be dressed very differently.

The children enjoyed the activity and would have measured every tree in the wood if they had had enough time.



## Reception—Making Magic Fire

This half term our Reception children went down to Rough Wood for the very first time. They found all the magical places like the dragon holes, trolls bridge and the crocodile swamp.



Exploring is fun but also very tiring. So the children worked together to build a magic fire where we could cook hot chocolate. The children worked together to collect fire wood safely and build the fire, then we all sat



down to enjoy our well earned hot chocolate and biscuits. Lighting our fire with magic not real fire.

The children loved their first adventure and can't wait to go there again.



Well done Reception, maybe after Christmas the 'Chocolate Tree' might have some fruit.



## Year Three—Plant Diagrams

In their science this half term Year Three have been learning about the parts of plants and what their functions are.



They have learned why each part is important to the plant and also how plants can be useful to humans not just as food but also they provide oxygen vital for life on Earth.

The children then worked in teams to

construct plant diagrams by using natural materials. These diagrams they then had to label, putting the



To further our learning we linked it to the current season and discussed how the deciduous trees are currently dormant, but some trees have the start of tiny catkins which will be the flowers for the spring.

correct names on the various parts.

This was particularly difficult as the wind kept blowing the diagrams away but the children eventually managed to do it and they were very proud of their results.



The children were interested in all the science linked to plants and can't wait till their next Forest School sessions where they will learn about pollination and seed dispersal.



Well done Year Three, let's hope our next Forest School session is not so windy!

### Conservation News

After holding our elections for the Conservation Club our new class representatives are:

Year One— Ollie, Ella Rose

Year Two— Lucas, Jaiden

Year Three— Fahmida, Eden

Year Four—Amiya, Xander

Year Five— Eloise, Zack

Year Six— Lydia, Satgar



### What to look out for.

As winter is upon us we will start to see natural visitors arriving, to spend the winter in our country, which may be warmer than their own home. In trees where there are lots of berries you might find birds called waxwings, red wings or fieldfares. These birds love to eat juicy red berries and can be seen gathering together in small flocks. Around lakes and ponds you may see whooper swans and there is a very small bird that visits our country called a brambling. So if you feed the birds in your garden or if you are out for a walk keep your eyes open for these winter visitors.

