

Forest School – October 2021

We have had a wonderful start to the year here at Forest School, packed full of activities. The children's creativity and sense of innovation has really impressed me. As well as the regular climbing, swinging and digging fun, the children started the term looking at birds' nests and re-creating their own, using the long dry grass that had dried out over the summer. Some of them were so convincing that other children thought they were real nests! We then enjoyed using clay to make nests adorned with leaves, seeds and petals as well as lots of wonderful clay woodland creatures some of which have made their way home to you I'm sure!



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We have thought carefully about what birds like to eat and made some pine cone feeders for them – the seeds got gobbled up fast so we have created a feeding station for the birds next to the outdoor classroom and hope to encourage lots of different birds to come and join us. We already get visited every week by the friendly robin who likes to sing to us whilst we are sitting in the fire circle. It's not just the birds that need feeding. We decided that our lovely pear tree could do with some food so one week we dug some fish blood and bone powder into the soil and washed it down with some water. We hope that the pear tree likes it and the children are looking forward to the day when they can eat the pears from our tree.



We love our woodland creatures and have enjoyed learning some yoga moves for Freddy the Fox, Brenda the butterfly and Beatrice the bird amongst others. The children continue to improve their gross and fine motor muscle strength with all sorts of activities including leaf cutting, transporting material in wheelbarrows, lifting large poles to make dens, using loose parts such as pallets and drain pipes to make slides and mini playgrounds.



They have also picked up some new skills including the use of a palm drill to make holes in conkers for necklaces and showed how sensible and careful they could be with a whittling knife (supervised 1:1 by myself) to make marshmallow sticks – we will use these after half term to roast our delicious marshmallows!



Enjoy your half term break – here are some ideas from the Essex Wildlife Trust which include local events in the area. Otherwise there is plenty of fun to be had with good old fashioned mud in your own back garden!

<https://www.essexwt.org.uk/events?tags=510>



Mrs McInnes



Forest School pizza!



Our pear tree enjoying its food.



What shall we make this week with the pallet and tyres? A playground of course!



Hello Mr Snail!



Butterflies have been doing so well, especially as some of them have never been to Forest School before. They are also officially the best class at tidying up their wellies at the end of a session after only a few weeks. Well done Butterflies!!

