



Y6 Bushcraft Day



Wow what a day we had on Tuesday with Helen Payne of Discover Bushcraft. Year 6 had a wonderful time and Helen was particularly impressed with their respectful behaviour and enthusiasm to throw themselves into all of the activities.

What an amazing range of clay creations we made including some very life-like mushrooms, lovely bowls, beads, flowers and of course Mr Pike's mouse! They were fired in our own fire which we kept going all day – the eternal flame - lit very confidently at the start of the day by Tyler Walden. Everyone had a go at lighting their own little fires with a metal striker which is harder than it looks. After some practice and perseverance, everyone succeeded – they will be complete pros on residential now!

We then had the job of keeping the fire going all day and the children took it in turns to help find wood, place it on the fire and keep an eye on the clay creations which needed turning regularly so they would bake evenly. There were plenty of other activities going on including making God's eyes, bracelets and of course the creation of the mud structure which required a lot of man power. After plenty of digging, transporting, pegging out, staking the hazel rods and weaving the children then got very muddy mixing the mud with hay to create a mixture to be used for a wall on top of the weaved hazel branches. Year 1 and Reception look forward to continuing with this project during their forest school sessions.

By this point everyone was getting quite hungry so we set to work making our own elderflower fritters, mixing the batter and dipping the flowers in before frying them on the fire. A mixture of reactions but well done everyone for trying them – a tasty snack to be had at this time of year as there is so much elderflower growing at the moment. After eating a quick lunch, we had a lot of fun getting stuck into some wonderful clay paint graffiti and then it was time for a wide game – Capture the Flag. We had a lot of fun getting ready with the face paints and then planning our attacks... The children showed great teamwork and strategy skills but we made it just too difficult to capture each other's flags so it was a draw!

We finished the day with a special sit around the fire that was still burning strong, sharing our favourite memories of the day whilst taking in the smells of the smoke, burning lavender and sage and enjoying Mikolaj's display of fire super powers! What a special day to share and we wish Year 6 all the best on their next adventure at secondary school – Be Safe, Be Kind, Be Free!



“We were creative and had positive attitudes, everyone made something different with the clay and painted the walls in different designs” – Hawke

“I liked lighting the fire because I enjoy making things set on fire and I was good at it!” – Megan

“We were able to be free and be ourselves” - Paige