

Y4 - Forest School and outdoor learning in autumn

During any session we look out for and celebrate those children who are **helpful, respectful and engaged** in the tasks, **responding thoughtfully** to instructions, **modelling safe skills** and being **positive** in competitive aspects like our team games.

The beginning of the Autumn term saw us establish our Forest School Ethos and routines. The children named our Forest School room 'The Inside Out Room'

As part of the introduction to Forest School the children learnt essential skills including putting up tarp shelters, fire lighting and safe use of tools.

Each session began with a team game or a problem-solving activity followed by an introduction to a new skill. I am really pleased to see children using these skills within their independent learning. Year 4 have covered so much learning this term including foraging and making blackberry and elderberry juice, crab apple pancakes, popcorn and flat bread, and that's just the cooking. They've been really interested in natural art and have used mallets to transfer the colour onto fabric, spray leaf art, clay faces, clay press, leaf mobiles and have even made their own charcoal to create pictures. Some children have used tools to make rolling pins and paint rollers to enhance their artwork. The children have loved using the tools and have used billhooks to split wood to make fires, different hand puppets and more recently Christmas decorations and Santas. The children have been developing their problems solving, communication and team work in the sessions creating some really impressive debris shelters; over the weeks I have seen these progress, they have used different designs and have evaluated each shelter and it is clear that they have used their previous experience to make them better. As part of their responsibility, they've completed a survey of the mosses within the Forest School base camp at the Old Park Plantation, they will be making an ID sheet for the other classes to use and keeping a careful watch on the mosses over the year. The children will be using different techniques to bind their work together and make a Forest School learning journal at the end of the year to bring home.

Art, art and more art



'this is hard work' Charlie



What a team, they even managed it without speaking



