

Y6 - 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. The children have had a great start in their first term of Forest School; as part of their responsibility they have been looking at what is growing within the Forest School base camp at The Old Park Plantation. They have looked at the different layers; ground, field, understory and canopy layer and recorded what is growing. They will do this again throughout the seasons and monitor and feed back to the rest of school.

They have used the Kelly Kettle and made a honey and lemon drink, mint tea, made a fire to cook popcorn and wholemeal flat bread. Lots of the children have all been interested in making fire, they have worked really hard and shown high levels of determination and perseverance, problem solving and team work to try and get the fires started; sometimes with success but sometimes without. They have used previous knowledge of a constructor knot and made a low rope challenge, thinking about the risks and developing ways and rules to keep themselves and others safe. The children have begun to use tools more over the last few weeks, making Christmas decorations, Santas and musical instruments. They have enjoyed learning knots to successfully put up tarp shelters. They've certainly needed this skill several times recently due to the heavy rain. Some of the children have been interested in developing their skills building debris shelters and have amended their design to make them better. The children have used natural resources and different techniques to create pieces of artwork. The work looks fantastic and the children will be using different binding techniques in the summer term to make a Forest School learning journal to display all their work.



