

Forest Schools Newsletter

Summer Term 2024

By Nicky 'Nightingale' Powell

It has been yet another fantastic season at Forest Schools! The children's knowledge and skills have continued to grow and they are able to recall significant safety rules and procedures, and understand how to keep themselves and others safe. We have further developed love and respect for the natural world through identifying plants and animals, and learnt to persevere and be resilient in our learning. The children have had many opportunities to be independent and make their own choices, worked as part of a team and are learning to manage their own risks.



Fire lighting activities are always popular among the children and as ever, campfire food has gone down a treat! The children are gaining confidence to recall safety information around fires; knowing what safety equipment is needed at hand, how to keep safe and treat burns, should the need ever occur.



We have shared many safety talks around using various tools including the bow saw to cut log discs, hand drills to make holes, a butter knife, potato peeler and sheath knives to whittle, tent pegs to hollow out Elder, and made some amazing crafts using the resources we are so lucky to have on site.

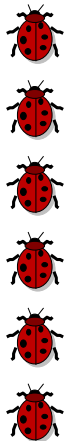
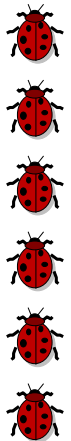




The children have really taken on responsibility for their own environment, carrying out regular litter picks and feeding back to Mrs Keitch the amount of rubbish collected each week which has been fed back to the school in assembly.



The mud pit has been a busy area, with the new trench designed to soak away the rain water. The children have explored the guttering, used digging tools, created new pits, and been creative in their mud and nature inspired 'cooking'.



Wellbeing sessions have been a huge success, welcoming parents along to share the Forest Schools experience with their child. Here are some of our highlights:



And finally, we finished the term with a visit from Colin, an International Stag Beetle Expert, who gave a whole school presentation on the species, offering lots of facts and information about them and providing the children with an opportunity to see various parts of the life cycle, up close. We are extremely fortunate to have these living on site here at St George's so it was amazing to find out more about them and learn how we can better look after this endangered species.



Once again, I would like to thank Mr Barford-Buzzard and John Jackdaw for their help and support at Forest Schools.

Wishing you all a fantastic summer!

