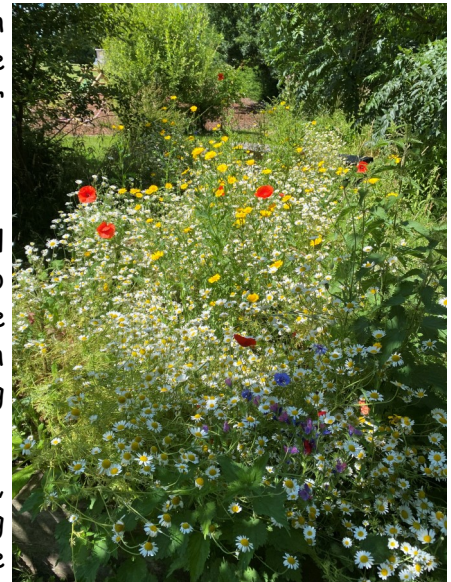


Forest Schools

Summer Term 2022

Written by Nicky 'Nightingale' Powell, Forest Schools Leader

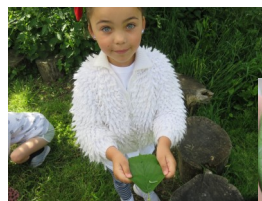
This term we have seen the forest area in full bloom, in particular our wildflower meadow which was seeded by the children in the Spring term. This is now thriving with colour and home to many visiting bees and butterflies.



The growth of all plants, grasses and trees has been a real talking point among the sessions, as the children learn to understand how our environment changes throughout the seasons. It has provided us with shade and shelter from both sun and rain, and given us some fantastic hiding places during games of Hide and Seek!

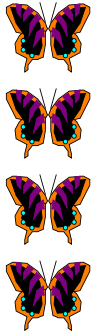
We have kept an eye on how the poisonous plant, Cuckoo Pint, has changed and the children have been aware of the stinging nettles that are growing. We have discussed why these are good for the ecosystem and why we don't always want to remove them, as they provide protection for insects from predators and also from the sun and rain.

The children have discovered some interesting finds, including a broken birds egg which led onto some investigation about which type of bird it might have belonged to. We have enjoyed hunting for insects and identifying different species of fauna. Our findings have included caterpillars, ladybirds, stag beetles and even a tiny newt.





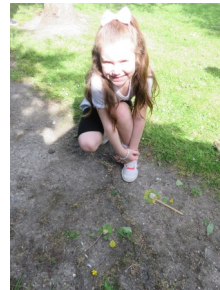
It has been evident how each and every child has developed in confidence over the past year of Forest Schools, learning skills and techniques, and having their own ideas of how they want their sessions to play out. Fire lighting and cooking have been a popular choice among children, with popcorn, chocolate bananas, s'mores and nettle crisps being served.



Shelter building has been used to provide shade from the sun and protection from the rain, with some excellent problem solving skills being developed and team building with peers.



We have taken inspiration from Andy Goldsworthy, an artist famous for creating artwork from natural materials, and created our own natural pieces of art.



We have used mallets, stones, logs and even branches to make leaf and flower print pictures, known as Hapa Zome.

