

# News from the Forest

Nursery and Reception have LOVED forest school this term, despite the cold weather! The children have become very comfortable in our 'woodland' and are constantly extending their learning and thinking.



We rediscovered the forest school fairies. We worked together to make fairy homes. Without adult support, children used sticks to form a 'tepee' and leaves and flowers to make a surrounding fairy garden.



Mud is still our most favourite part of the forest. Children have enjoyed mud painting and measuring our biggest muddy puddle jumps!

Our next group of Year 1 children have now completed their 6 week block of Forest School! The children were so excited for it to be their turn and have had a fantastic time exploring the forest!

We set the bar high on our first session, working together to build a den to have a story time and hot chocolate in! Children worked as part of a team to find the appropriate resources and tie special knots and lashings to keep our den secure.



It has been a chilly 6 weeks and we spent some time thinking about how our environment changes between the seasons. Some of this group attended the 'trial' Forest School while they were in Reception and so noticed just how much had changed in our woodland. We searched for 'signs' of winter. We spotted frost, red berries, and noticed a lack of wildlife. We learnt that lots of creatures hibernate during the winter months, even snails and slugs! Not finding many



'signs of life' we introduced our own forest school woodland animals and made them a HUGE birds nest to keep them comfy and warm!



We have been very lucky with weather this half term, and Year 2 have enjoyed lots of winter sun! We have enjoyed digging big holes and gaining greater control over tools.

Like  
Nursery  
and



Reception, Year 2 come to the Forest very regularly so have enjoyed using the forest to independently explore. One of our most favourite things has been making our own coffee shop – DKH's answer to Starbucks!



We made an AMAZING discovery in our pond. We like pond dipping but often don't find many signs of life in our pond - especially at this time of year. BUT on Monday we accidentally caught two smooth newts. We looked at them closely with a magnifying glass before releasing them back into the pond. The two newts raced to jump back into the pond! It was so exciting! [Look here!](#)

# End of term fire!

Of course, we finished the term with our traditional bonfire! **Thank you, as always, for your donations.** The fire is a real highlight for the children and the learning that goes on in these sessions is FANTASTIC!

Year 2 have been learning all about the Great Fire of London this term and so we spent a long time talking about what fires need to grow and how to put them out! We looked closely at the embers left in the fire pit as the fire slowly died down. Ms Hulse fanned the embers and we looked closely as they lit again. Ms Mlynarska reminded the children that the summer of the Great Fire was very windy and so it was very easy for the fire to spread and grow!

We loved looking closely at the fire and children used fantastic language to describe what was happening... 'the flames are dancing', 'the marshmallow is roasting'!





Year 1 have been SO excited about the campfire!

*'I loved the s'mores'*

*'I loved the melty marshmallows!'*

*'The best bit about forest school was being together'*

The Early Years will have the opportunity to cook on the campfire in Spring 2.

Remember to follow our adventures on Twitter!



## **DKH Forest School**

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