



July 2025

Forest School News

***"I couldn't do
this before and
now I can!"
Reception Child***

update from The
Wilderness 2024-
2025!



Learning

By spending full days in the forest this year, the children had opportunities to extend and deepen their classroom-based learning. These included the burning of origami Viking ships; making swords and hammers; designing and making "rocket launchers", digging for "gold", learning about the human body and making skeletons with sticks and other found items, casting animal footprints, making wooden spinning toys, and navigating the forest using compass skills.



Campfire Cookery

Some of the memorable campfire cookery "recipes" this year included toast with jam/chocolate spread, s'mores, popcorn, cinnamon apples, vegetable soup, and nettle crisps.

With campfire cookery comes the opportunity to learn about fire safety and fire-lighting.



Crafting, Creating & Playing

This year, children across the school have had the opportunity to learn and develop woodworking and whittling skills – from carving knives, to making hammers, making swords to making beads with patterns in bark.

***“Forest School is
the best time at
school!”***



Hapa zome printing on fabric, using flowers and leaves from the forest. Weaving spider's webs and making Conker spiders. Making tree faces and candle-making, and so much more!



And, of course, making time to simply play.

Connecting with Nature

Throughout the year, children are able to observe changes in plants and wildlife with the seasons. In the Autumn they created mandala art with leaves of changing colours. They harvested elderflowers and young nettles in late Spring to make cordial and nettle "crisps". Many noticed the increasing diversity and abundance of caterpillars and butterflies from Spring to Summer. Another focus was learning about bees and discovering many different species in our forest, including the ground nesting red-tailed bumblebee! Woodland's children really enjoyed pond-dipping in the new pond in the garden at school, including learning about the lifecycle of frogs. And the children learned about looking after our forest and helped to plant new trees, spring bulbs and primroses. What was your child's favourite wildlife encounter this year?!



Physical Activity & Wellbeing



Hanging out in the hammocks. Creative den/base building – big and small! Balancing on the slack line. Digging, climbing, balancing and swinging.

Goodbye to Year 6

To mark the end of Year 6's time at Clandon Forest School, Kestrels enjoyed toasting marshmallows to make s'mores and then had water play!



Year 6 - we wish you all the best in your new schools and hope you take with you many happy memories from the forest! Stay curious, keep playing, and remember to get outdoors when you can!

Lastly...

Thank you for ensuring your child comes to school in clothes which help them to fully and comfortably experience all that the forest has to offer throughout the year.