

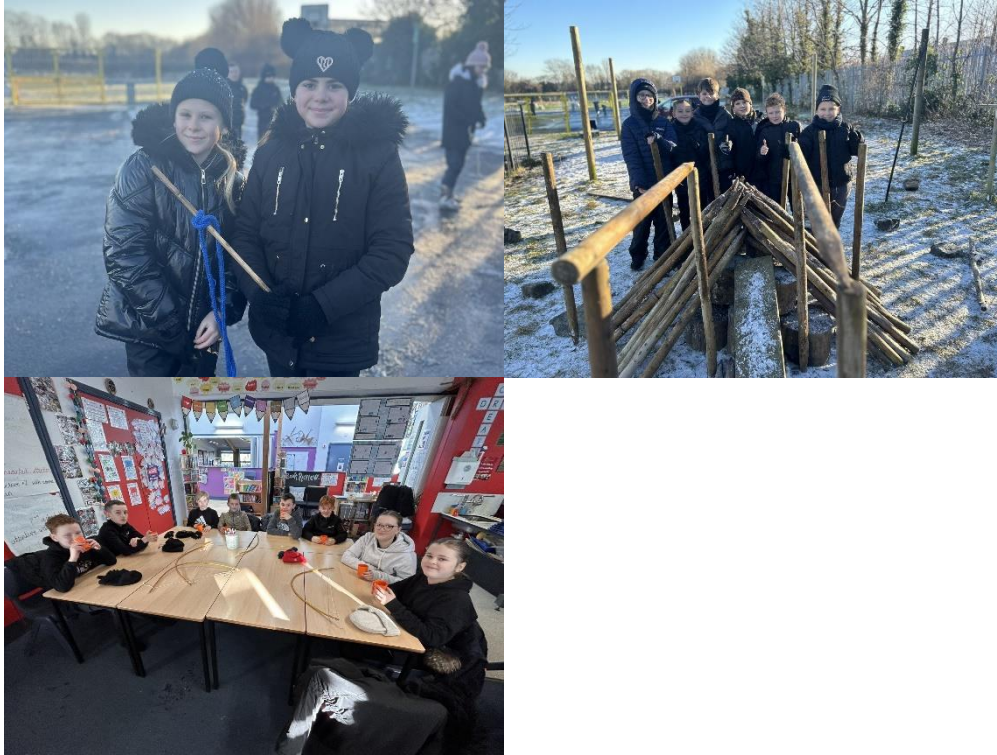
Thursday 11th January 2024 - EYFS Forest School

EYFS had a very exciting Forest School session today. We started off by playing some team games and then had lots of fun exploring the forest school area together. We created pictures and patterns using natural objects - we love making repeating patterns so we really enjoyed this activity! We also built dens for the cuddly animals and really enjoyed hammering the pegs into the ground, practised balancing on the wooden planks, played parachute games, and enjoyed using the swing and the hammock. We loved toasting our own marshmallows and had a delicious drink of hot chocolate to warm ourselves up as well. We are already looking forward to our next forest school session. What a lovely and busy morning we had!



Thursday 18th January 2024 - Year 6 Forest School

We began our session with Jon by embracing the cold and admiring God's creation. We took photographs of the snow-covered grounds and found aspects of nature that looked beautiful when covered by the snow. During the Maya-themed part of our forest school, we had 3 main activities: making a bow and arrow, building a Maya settlement from natural resources and designing and making Maya jewellery from natural resources. We now understand so much more about our new topic thanks to Jon's session and can talk about the tools and buildings constructed during the Maya civilisation.



Thursday 25th January 2024 - Year 5 Forest School

In Forest School, we worked in three groups to explore different elements of the lives of the Native American people. One group made tipis out of wooden stakes, ropes and tarpaulin and we discussed how the natives would have used animal skins to insulate them. Another group created bow and arrows out of willow and we competed in a competition to see who could shoot them the furthest. We discussed how important these weapons would have been for hunting and food gathering. The third group made dream catchers like those used by the spiritual Native Americans to capture bad spirits.



Thursday 1st February 2024 - Year 4 Forest School

We celebrated the start of February with a superb Forest School session based on Ancient Egypt. We started by trying to write our names on the playground in hieroglyphics - it was tough but certainly a lot of fun. Following this, we split into three different groups. The first group were challenged to try and make a pyramid using materials found in the forest school area; the second group made death masks based on Tutankhamun; and the third group used sticks and wire to build a Shaduf - an Ancient Egyptian structure for lifting water from the River Nile. We had great fun and topped it all off with a marshmallow and some hot chocolate. As we went back to class, one child said: "this has been the best morning ever!"



Thursday 8th February 2024 - Year 3 Forest School

Despite the rainy weather, Year 3 still had a fantastic indoor forest school session! We worked in three groups to explore different activities all with a link to our topic on Roman Britain. One group tried to replicate an aqueduct using gutter piping whilst discussing the water transportation system. Another group made some Roman coins out of wooden discs, the children had to use the saw to slice their disc and then sand down the edges before designing their coin. The third group used hammers and nails to put together some Roman numerals. We really enjoyed our cross-curricular morning with Jon!



Thursday 29th February 2024 - Year 1 Forest School

Our Forest School session this week was based on the Great Fire of London. Year 1 have thoroughly enjoyed this topic and were excited to set their Tudor houses they made in DT on fire! The children split into three groups and enjoyed three different activities. The first activity asked the children to recreate Puddling Lane with large wooden poles and natural materials. Another activity involved making bread with flour and milk, rolling the dough into a thin sausage shape before wrapping on a stick to cook on the open fire. The third activity allowed children to be creative and work together with open-ended natural resources. Year 1 children and adult had a wonderful morning - thank you Jon!

We have created a video of our Forest School session, it can be found on the Year 1 class page.



Thursday 7th March 2024 - Year 6 Forest School - World Book Day

Year 6 had a wonderful session with Jon today, which took place in Rivacre Valley. We were lucky enough to combine our session with World Book Day and take part in some exciting, story-themed activities. First, we crafted story sticks out of natural resources. These were done with sticks, string, leaves and other items to tell the tale of the valley itself. After this, we used sticks and knots, that Jon had previously taught us, to create a stick character. Some of us challenged ourselves to add legs as well as arms! After that, we created a flat-lay scene from a story for our character before heading back to school to warm up with marshmallows around the fire.



Thursday 14th March 2024 - Year 5 Forest School

Year 5 had a brilliant session with Jon today. We used the Forest School area as a base to enhance our Science learning this term on Space. Building on the woodwork skills we have developed in previous years, we cut wooden discs with a handsaw and drilled holes into them with a hand-drill. We then used what we have learned in class to decorate the planets and order them from Mercury to Neptune. Jon also helped us with remembering the different phases of the moon - we used wooden blocks, nails and hammers weaving wool to show how the moon appears differently in the sky dependent on its phase.



Thursday 21st March 2024 - EYFS Forest School

EYFS had a fabulous Forest School session based on minibeasts and nature today. It was very rainy but the children absolutely loved splashing in the muddy puddles and had lots of fun! We started our session by playing games where we had to pretend to be lots of different minibeasts before exploring the Forest School area. We worked with a partner to fill laminated footprints with colourful natural objects and made clay minibeasts, dens for cuddly animals and went on a minibeast hunt where we found worms and beetles! We played lots of parachute games and loved gathering around the fire for hot chocolate and toasted marshmallows. A lovely and fun morning had by all, we are already looking forward to our next session!

