



MERTON COURT

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

CO-EDUCATIONAL DAY PREPARATORY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN AGED 3-11
WHERE OPPORTUNITIES MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

Forest School

Round up Autumn term

Newsletter - 2023

Forest School has got off to a fantastic start this year and so far the weather has been kind!

The children are always keen to take part and enjoy exploring and discovering new things in each session.

Forest School is closely linked to our curriculum and children are given small achievable tasks within it to develop literacy, mathematical and scientific skills as well as developing personal independence skills and decision making.



Early Years and J1 now visit Forest School together on a Thursday afternoon and have thoroughly enjoyed exploring different areas of our Forest. They have been enjoying the outdoor environment noting the seasonal changes, they have made leaf bracelets and collages and have enjoyed hot chocolate and marshmallows at the campfire. Their favourite thing this term has been hunting for bugs and worms using our i-spy resources.

The Early Years children are all now familiar with our Forest School rules and have been enjoying our outdoor area.

They have had lots of fun hunting for 'The Gruffalo' and exploring the trails in our Forest School site.

J2 and J3 have been enjoying exploring their curriculum outside of the classroom together in their joint Forest School sessions on a Wednesday afternoon. J2 have shared their knowledge of the artist Andy Goldsworthy with the J3's and the year groups have been working together to make their own natural artwork inspired by him. As part of their history topic this term J3 took to Forest School to recreate The Great Fire of London, setting alight their model houses and watching how the flames spread.



S1 children have been learning about different plants in our Forest School area. The children were surprised to learn that there are male and female holly trees and were interested to learn why the leaves of deciduous trees change colour in Autumn. Some children enjoyed using ipads to take photos of interesting plants and other natural objects in our Forest School area. The children in S1 constructed shelters linked to their learning around 'Famous Buildings' in Art. Learning in RE was enhanced and natural items were used to create Rangoli patterns during our study of Diwali



We have used the magnifying glasses to hunt for bugs and the binoculars to spot birds in the trees up high. We have particularly enjoyed making the most of the good weather and being outside.

Forest School promotes self-esteem through small achievable tasks and through praise and also recognising personal success.

Since we started Forest School in 2012, we have noticed that the children are taking risks more readily and are able to work as a team and help each other to achieve.

As the weather gets wetter and colder, we would like to remind you that children can bring in an extra jumper to wear under their waterproofs as well as gloves, scarves, hats and spare socks – these do not have to be school colours or uniform regulation as they will get ruined in the outdoors. Wellie socks may also be useful.

We would like to ask if you have any of the following items to donate:

- Out-grown wellies and waterproofs that we can keep as spares.
- Old gloves – even if you can only find one of the pair!
- Any old socks as we often get muddy and need clean ones to change into!
- Any old pots, pans, kitchen utensils/items that we can use in our mud kitchen which has become a much used and loved area of Forest School!

We know that the children sometimes come home needing a good wash – but this is a sure sign that they have enjoyed themselves and have thrown themselves whole-heartedly into that day's task.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Aburrow, Miss Amphlett, Miss Hall
and Mr Jones Forest School Leaders

