

Pixmore

Junior School



Forest School Autumn 2017 Update

All learning together, creating moments to celebrate.

We strive to make Pixmore a happy and safe school where we:

Respect ourselves and others

Embrace individuality

Celebrate culture and diversity

Inspire a love of learning

We've been working extremely hard this term to get outside and explore our woodland and grounds. We've collected lots of great evidence towards gaining the Bronze Learning Outside the Classroom award so hopefully by the end of the year I'll have some good news to share with everyone!

To this end, I'd like to share with you some of the learning that we have been taking part in over the Autumn term. We have also put some of our Forest School photos on the school website in the gallery and will continue to share these with you over the coming terms.

Year 3



It was Year 3's first chance to explore our wooded area and grounds when we went out at the end of September. We played some fun games to help us work together as a team and to explore the area. Then we made dens for Traction Man, a character we had been writing about in Literacy. We used our den designs to write instructions.



Having explored the woodland at arguably the most beautiful time of year, we took the opportunity to do some autumnal artwork. We used pointillism (an art style where pictures are created using only small dots of colour) to create an autumn tree picture. Our work is on display in the hall along with work from Year 4.



Year 4

Year 4 have been outside in lots of different lessons including science and literacy. Our main work outside this term with Year 4 has been around conservation and wildlife. We began to think about how the time of year affects our local wildlife. In 4R we made lard fat balls and recycled bottle bird feeders. It was messy but worth it as we quickly saw that the birds (and naughty squirrels) were thoroughly enjoying them; there was only bits of string tied to trees when we next went out!



With 4D we began thinking about other wildlife and made bug houses from sticks and recycled plastic bottles. We then hung these in different locations thinking about what insects needed in the winter e.g. food and shelter.



We also took time to enjoy the beauty of autumn and created some natural material mandala. We then took out the ipads for some photography. We hunted for interesting patterns in nature such as tree bark and images where we could capture light and dark.



Year 5

Year 5 have also been taking part in a series of conservation projects around the school. With 5R we planned, prepared and made a full scale bug hotel using wooden pallets and other materials we found in the woodland area for our local insects, hedgehogs, newts and frogs.

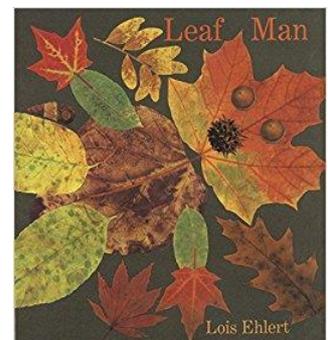


5P also made a bug hotel in a different location with the aim of encouraging different kinds of wildlife. All of the children showed fantastic collaborative work, decision making skills and all thoroughly enjoyed giving something back to our school grounds.



Year 2 from Hillshott visit

As a way of further building our community links, we invited the Year 2 children from Hillshott to come down for an afternoon of Forest School. With Kestrels Class we read the book 'Leaf Man' by Lois Ehlert and then we collected materials to create our own Leaf Men. With Falcons Class we went on a Dragon Hunt! We found 4 dragon eggs in the woodland and we discussed what kind of dragons they might be considering where they were found and the colour of the eggs. The children then drew what they thought each dragon might look like; we had some very interesting dragons!



We've got lots of activities planned for the Spring and Summer term including individual classes with specific curriculum focuses, Year 6 taking part in some conservation projects, transition activities with the Year 2 children from Hillshott, using some of the activities as Golden Time activities as well as having a Forest School Week planned for the whole school, so look for a Forest School letter coming home with your child!

If there are any parents or carers who would like to join groups or classes as they go out in the woodland, please let your child's class teacher or myself know.

In addition, we are also looking to build up our bank of Forest School resources so if you have any of the following that you could donate to the school, they'd be very much appreciated:

- **Large logs as we would like to create a wood/log circle for whole class teaching outside**
- **Donations of compost, spare turf or spare plants**

Lots of exciting activities planned for the coming term, keep an eye on the newsletter and school website galleries for Forest School updates, photos and dates.



Mrs Sarah Inman
Deputy Head and Forest School Lead