

Pixmore



Junior School

Forest School End of Year 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

Since September we have been using our extensive grounds to enhance the learning that goes on in our classrooms more effectively. Across the Autumn term, we all took part in forest school sessions to introduce the children (and staff) to the benefits of using the outdoor space on communication and team building skills and to familiarise everyone with the space we have.

Our overall aim is to continue to use the space effectively and creatively across different subjects within the curriculum and embed this practise in order to be awarded the 'Learning Outside the Classroom Bronze Award' by January 2018. This would give us a nationally recognised accreditation and would make us one of only a handful of schools in the county to be accredited.



LOtC Mark (Bronze)

As such I would like to share with you some of the learning that we have been taking part in over the last term and a half. We have also put some of our Forest School photos on the school website in the year group galleries and will continue to share these with you over the coming terms.

Year 3

Year 3 have been using the outdoor space in lots of ways since the Spring term including creating a rope trail to help them revise 2d and 3d shapes. The children worked in pairs, where one was blindfolded, to follow the rope trail but when they reached a question card, they had to work out the answer to the question read to them by their partner!

Year 3 have also written reports about an imaginary creature that they made using things they found in the woodland. They had to describe where it lived, what it looked like and what it ate.



Year 4

Year 4 combined learning outside with PE and Maths to create a maths based sporting challenge. They had to design an obstacle course and used it to revise shape, position and angle.

They were also lucky enough to have their camping residential in our school grounds where they learnt to put up their own tents – a task that required them to use their good team work, perseverance and communication skills! They also learnt survival skills such as fire building and fire safety and what was good to eat in the wild! Although judging by Leah and Harmony's faces in the picture they weren't impressed by the meal worms!!!



Year 5

Year 5 linked the outdoors with their Computing curriculum as they were selected to attend the launch of the Ohbot in the Spring term. The children went to watch the launch of the system which they could track and would give them a wealth of information including geographical location, altitude, wind speed etc.



They've also used the outside space to explore the parts of a plant, plant reproduction and pollination. The children were given the task of using the PE equipment to simulate the reproductive parts of a plant and then they used these models to understand the pollination process.

Linking with their literacy unit on the Jungle Book, Year 5 also made model jungle using the outdoor wooded area as a stimulus. The work they produced from it gave them lots of ideas for their writing and they have used this to create a lovely display in the dining room.

Year 6

Year 6 hasn't all been about revision and SATs this last term; they used the outdoor area to help with their revision and to create some amazing writing! The Year 6 staff designed a Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation trail for the children to complete to help them revise.

They then combined their literacy with their science unit on 'Adaptation and Inheritance' and completed a unit that they called 'Monsterology'. They hid 4 different and mysterious eggs in the woodland – a fire egg, a water egg, an earth egg and an air egg. The children had to consider where the eggs were found and what kind of creature might have laid the egg. The children created some amazing 'monsters' and this led to some terrific report writing about their creature.



Other adults in the school have also taken the opportunity to work with children outside the classroom. Mrs Willans and the Gardening Club have rejuvenated our allotment and have even made containers and a scarecrow!



Two weeks ago we had Arts Week where we were celebrating all things artistic! The children created some amazing art works which are on display around the school but also took part in a big 'Art Attack' on the playground. Photos will be on the website shortly!

In the year ahead, we've got lots of activities planned for the Autumn term and as a staff team we have looked at our long term plans to see where we can include even more opportunities to use the outside space in lessons. We're planning on using some of the forest school activities as Golden Time activities as well as having another Forest School Week planned for each year group, so look for a Forest School letter coming home with your child in September!

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. We've had a few volunteers already, so a big thank you to everyone who has supported us.

In addition, we are always 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 tarpaulins
- old railway sleepers as we'd like to make a wood circle by the oak tree at the front of the school
- aeroplane masks/blindfolds that we could use for our trails
- any nature/woodland identification guides or posters

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. Hopefully we'll be successful with our application and be an accredited school by January!

Many thanks and have a great summer!

S. Inman

Mrs Sarah Inman