



Outdoor Learning and Forest School



Badgers- Map topic

Badgers class took maps outside and showed brilliant noticing and listening skills on the treasure hunts and rope trails! We played a compass game in the walled garden using North, South, East, and West, and they practiced using directions like left, right, straight on, backwards, near, and far. They got super creative making their own maps, and definitely used their problem solving and keep trying habits to hunt down the ingredients to make pancakes around the Gosden grounds. As we found all the ingredients, we were able to mix them all together to make our pancakes on the fire. It was amazing learning together!



Follow the clues to find the Treasure



The Badgers class showed great resilience digging for treasure in the pouring rain! They definitely used their 'learning together' and 'keep trying' learning habits!



Pancake making



Robins and Owls have taken their 'Let's Grow' topic outside – which definitely makes sense! As part of their Forest School sessions, they got very creative using hammers to bash flowers onto bunting (Hapazome), making flower art, planting trees and sunflowers, and exploring different herbs and fruits in the mud kitchen. On Earth Day, the children chose to make Earth seed balls, which was a really lovely sensory experience. They showed great listening, patience, and noticing while using the bow saw to cut branches, to make and decorate wooden cookies, using their problem solving and keep trying habits to master the tool! These experiences are supporting their holistic development, building confidence, independence, and practical skills. They spent lots of time engaging in child-led learning, exploring their environment, and learning together – and over in the Robins outdoor area, they continued their amazing outdoor learning!





Our Earth seed balls, just waiting to sprout!



Checking the hedgehog home to see if we have any prickly visitors!



Finding worms



Sorting the firewood into small, medium, and large ready for our fire, which was a brilliant way for them to practice sorting, categorising, and size-matching.



Treasure hunt

Foxes class

- Foxes Class have been learning about David Attenborough, which has been a great topic to take outside! They've really enjoyed getting stuck in and thinking about the natural world and how we can look after it.
- They've made bird feeders, built animal habitats, and even put water out to look after our bees! They got creative making their own clay tree guardians and loved making animals out of natural resources like leaves, stones, and pinecones. Along the way, they've spent lots of time noticing bugs and the small details around them. They used their problem solving and keep trying habits when building.





Making a bug house



Water for the bees



Chilling and singing in the hammock



Making bird feeders



Circus fun with Badgers and Foxes - we set up lots of different circus activities around the wood for lots of child-led fun!

A circus isn't a circus without popcorn! We made popcorn on the fire, and Badgers and Foxes loved waiting in anticipation for the kernels to pop. They demonstrated great listening, noticing, and learning together.



9H and 9W

We've been doing lots of hands-on activities lately, including cooking, crafting, looking after the courtyard and pond area, working on the sunflower project, and even having a go at making our own mini fires safely. They have also begun making their own mini pond, which they've really enjoyed taking ownership of. As well as this, we've made pencils out of elder, created a gratitude tree, and even cooked pizza and orange chocolate cakes on the fire. These tasks are fantastic for building practical life skills that year 9 can carry with them.

We have also been focusing on the Green Tree Award, completing a range of activities to support wildlife and improve our outdoor environment. Year 9 have taken pride in looking after the space around them, which has given everyone a real sense of belonging within our school environment.

Through all of this, they have been using their Gosden learning muscles without even realising it! They've been incredibly brave by trying new things, keeping going when something doesn't work the first time, and learning together by helping each other out – naturally developing healthy relationships and strong teamwork. We've also seen them getting ready really well – organising what they need, listening carefully, and making sure they're working safely.

It's been great to see their confidence grow, and we've been able to tick off lots of competence along the way as they show they can do more independently. Best of all, being out in nature like this has been brilliant for supporting their emotional wellbeing, leaving everyone feeling grounded, proud, and happy!



Our tractor tyre pond has been a big hit – although we may have to move it, as the younger ones have taken to using it like a cauldron! Luckily, we haven't introduced any precious pond life to the area just yet, so our local wildlife is completely safe from the magic potions!



Record of 10 newts found in the actual pond so far by 9W!



Year 9 Sunflower project



Working together to tidy the courtyard

Orange chocolate
cakes





Pencils made out of
elder wood and
charcoal



A close-up photograph of a person's arm reaching into a dense, green hedge. The arm is positioned on the left side of the frame, with the hand partially visible, reaching towards the foliage. The background is a soft-focus view of the hedge and trees, with sunlight filtering through the leaves, creating a bokeh effect. The overall tone is natural and green.

**Tree planting to make a
hedgerow- 100 trees
planted**





Photos of 1:1 sessions- all interest based- child led to support holistic development



Practicing fire lighting to use the kelly kettle to make his class a hot drink.



Digging



Pancake making



Whitting



Making hot drinks