

## Forest School Newsletter Update – Deer Class (Autumn 2022)



It has been an amazing Autumnal half term with Deer Class in Forest School! We have been able to observe seasonal changes week-by-week as the woodland floor has become increasingly covered in lovely natural materials for exploring

and creating. The children have made all sorts of creations from little conker characters to large branch dens big enough for a group to huddle inside!



Over this block of sessions, Forest School has provided Deer Class with opportunities to show "courage" by trying new things – including the use of tools and fire-lighting. Feeling success and engaging in (well managed) risky activities

supports the develop of children's self-esteem, resilience and independent risk management.



Following sessions and discussions around fires in the build-up to bonfire night (and the forthcoming Y2 topic on the Great Fire of London), on Monday all children had



the opportunity to try lighting a tiny fire of their own using a fire steel (*they preferred the name "dragon breath" or "dragon sneeze"*). It is tricky to produce a spark, but they showed perseverance, encouraged others in their group and had 1-1 support to be successful in the task. Fire creates an elemental sense of wonder – seeing the joy in the children's faces as their "cloud" or "fairy blanket" of cotton wool ignited was certainly a highlight of my Forest School sessions!

Our half-term of Deer Forest School sessions came to a conclusion with the children enjoying their (self-initiated) early Halloween Forest School session! They used skills and activities they have developed over previous sessions to create their "Haunted House", mix potions in the "Witches' Kitchen", make a giant spider - complete with a

pink string web and created some self-tied broomsticks worthy of a Harry Potter movie!

Well done Deer Class!



**Next half term: Owl Forest School from Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October**



As per the letter sent out earlier this half term, next half term will be the turn of Owl Class to step into their wellies on Monday afternoons at Forest School. Our first Owl Forest School session will be on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October, the first day back after half term.



Have a great half term holiday everyone – and keep exploring Autumn in our fabulous local woodlands!

Mrs Finn (Jordans Forest School Leader)

