



Thursday 23rd October 2025

Weather: Dry | **Session:** All Day

This week, all classes enjoyed their final Forest School session of the half term — filled with teamwork, creativity, and a little bit of cooking around the fire!

Beech & Cedar Classes – Fire Safety and Autumn Fun

The children began their session by recapping **fire circle rules and boundaries**, reminding each other about the importance of fire safety. For some, this was their **first fire of the year**, so it was the perfect opportunity to revisit safe practices and talk about why we use a fire bowl and kneel around the flames.

The children helped to **prepare the wood** using a bill hook and mallet, showing off their “strong muscles” while splitting logs. They then practised using **flint and steel** to create sparks and helped to build a **waffle-style fire**, lighting it with cotton wool.

While the fire burned, the children explored a range of activities:

- Mixing **magical potions** in cauldrons using natural materials they found around the forest.
- Smashing and exploring the inside of a **pumpkin** with mallets.
- Rolling **logs and pumpkins down the hill**, taking turns, sharing, and laughing as they chased them back up again!

Once the fire was ready, everyone gathered around to make **toffee apples**. Each child toasted a slice of apple dipped in sugar over the flames, carefully turning it until golden, then cooling it before tasting. The children loved this activity and were keen for seconds!

The session ended with reflections around the fire circle, celebrating what they had learned and achieved over the half term — a wonderful way to finish!

Elm & Oak Classes – Fire Skills and Pumpkin Soup

To celebrate the end of the half term, Elm and Oak classes also enjoyed a **cooking session** over the fire.



With the fire already lit, the children worked together to **resurrect the flames** by blowing gently on the embers and adding small pieces of wood to bring it back to life. They listened carefully for the crackling sound that signalled the fire growing stronger.

Other groups used the **bill hook and mallet** to split logs safely, demonstrating teamwork and clear communication to keep everyone safe.

Meanwhile, another group prepared the ingredients for **pumpkin soup**. The children used knives to cut open a pumpkin, scoop out the seeds, and cube the flesh. They added **coconut milk, water, onion, garlic, stock, and curry powder** — smelling each ingredient and discussing the aromas as they cooked.

The mixture was cooked over the fire, and the children took turns stirring the pot and mashing the pumpkin once soft. Although a few were hesitant to try it at first, with encouragement they soon discovered how **tasty and healthy** the soup was — with many asking for seconds (and even thirds!).

To end the session, everyone reflected on how the soup was made and shared their favourite moments from the half term. It was a fantastic way to finish our Forest School sessions — full of learning, laughter, and teamwork.

Reflection

Across all classes, the children demonstrated:

- **Responsibility and safety awareness** – following fire rules and using tools carefully.
- **Teamwork and communication** – preparing wood, cooking, and problem-solving together.
- **Creativity and curiosity** – experimenting with natural materials and exploring new activities.
- **Confidence and independence** – taking ownership of their learning and celebrating achievements.

A brilliant end to a fantastic half term at Forest School!