

🌲 Forest School – Weekly Update (20/11/25)

Weather: Dry but cold

Session: All day

Classes: Beech, Cedar, Elm & Oak

Beech & Cedar

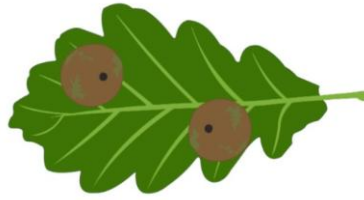
We began our session around the fire circle, talking about the cold weather and what we could observe around us. As the frost hasn't been appearing every day, the children were excited to explore it while it lasted. They discovered frosty patches on the ground and tables, watching how the ice sparkled in the sunlight. Some children tried melting the frost with their hands and noticed how it stuck to their gloves!

We also found ice sheets from puddles and frosted autumn leaves that had turned extra crispy. Using their "dragon breaths," the children blew warm air onto the frost and watched it slowly disappear as we talked about melting and temperature change.

To keep warm, the children went on a woodland animal hunt around the site. They found foxes, rabbits, hedgehogs, squirrels and owls, before having fun moving like each creature. This led to a woodland twist on the *Sleeping Bunnies* song, with lots of jumping, shuffling and flapping to stay active.

The children then explored a range of activities, including building homes for woodland creatures, thinking about habitats and what animals need to survive. Others chose to revisit last week's weaving, wrapping string around nails to create 2D shapes. We also had rakes and brushes available, and many children enjoyed sweeping leaves and brushing up frost.

We finished by gathering around the fire circle for a warm drink. For many of our younger children, this was their first ever hot drink, so we talked about blowing to cool it and taking small sips. After a little encouragement, they all had a try and enjoyed this cosy end to a frosty session.



Elm

With only a few sessions left before Christmas, Elm class began their festive craft activity this week. After completing a full tool talk, the children worked in pairs to saw slices from a log. They remembered the safety rules well—keeping a glove on their non-writing hand and holding the wood steady for their partner. They also ensured no saws were left on the ground.

Sawing required a lot of perseverance, but the children supported one another and were proud of the wooden slices they created. Once finished, they wrote their names on their wood ready for next week, when they will hammer nails into their slice to create a shape.

The group then took part in a litter pick around the playground. We discussed why it's important to keep our area clean and how litter can affect the animals and creatures that share our environment. The children worked incredibly hard and filled four full buckets with cans and plastic—showing great pride in caring for their school grounds. At the end of the session, we reflected on what we had achieved and discussed our next steps for next week.

Oak

Oak class continued the big project they began last week: clearing out the large boat. The aim was to remove weeds, unwanted plants and soil, while saving the plants we wanted to keep by replanting them into pots. This week, the children began emptying the soil from inside the boat, using buckets to transport it to another planter.

The task required strength and teamwork. The children quickly realised that sharing the job would help, and created a relay line to make moving the soil quicker and easier. Despite the frosty layer covering the top of the soil, they used spades, forks and trowels to break through and reach the softer earth underneath.

As the bottom of the boat began to appear, the children felt a real sense of pride. They encouraged each other throughout and showed fantastic perseverance. The group is determined to finish the project next week, and we ended by stepping back to admire how much progress had been made.