

Forest School Highlights – 22 January 2026

Beech & Cedar Classes

Beech and Cedar classes continued their work on the **RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch**, eagerly searching for birds using binoculars and identification sheets. The children explored different habitats and discussed where birds choose to live.

Some children chose to make bird food to attract more birds to the Forest School site. They rolled pinecones in lard and seeds, tied them with string, and carefully hung them from branches. Bird feeders were also topped up with sunflower seeds. The children quietly observed the area and recorded their findings using tally charts.

Creativity played a big role in the session as children created birds using clay and natural resources. Although the clay was initially difficult to work with, the children showed excellent perseverance. They used twigs for legs, wood chips for beaks, and leaves for wings and tails, before role-playing with their creations.

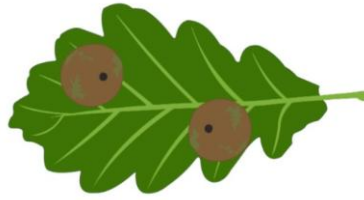
The session ended with a group reflection and a shared bird song.

Elm Class

Elm class began their session calmly at the fire circle, listening carefully to the birds around them. The children discussed the different birds found on the Forest School site before working in groups to collect data using tally charts and identification guides.

Birdwatching took place in several areas around the school. On the Forest School site, the children spotted robins, house sparrows, blue tits and great tits. In Beech class playground, they observed larger birds such as gulls, crows, pigeons and jackdaws. From this, the children concluded that larger birds prefer open spaces, while smaller birds need the safety of trees and bushes.

The children also used a bird listening app, which confirmed many of the birds they had already identified. Comparing tally charts showed very similar results, reinforcing the accuracy of their observations. The children were highly focused and worked extremely hard throughout the session.



Oak Class

Oak class took part in a Forest School trip to a local woodland. Working in pairs, the children collected data and recorded their observations. For some, this was their first visit to a woodland, and although a few felt apprehensive at first, confidence quickly grew.

The children spotted wood pigeons, magpies, nuthatches and great tits, while also navigating different terrains such as slopes and brambles. They discovered fungi, jelly mould known as 'moon poo', moss, lichen and an oak apple. A large stick structure initially thought to be a bird nest was later identified as a squirrel drey, and the children enjoyed watching squirrels play.

The group also identified signs of other wildlife, including small mammal habitats and a badger path. Back in class, the children shared their discoveries and counted the birds and data collected. The session was thoroughly enjoyed, with many children asking to visit the woods again.