

On 5 February, children from Beech, Cedar, Elm and Oak classes took part in a full day of Forest School activities. Due to sleet and cold conditions, sessions were adapted to ensure children remained safe, warm and engaged.

Beech & Cedar

The session began at the fire circle, where children revisited Forest School rules and boundaries. They were introduced to a toy mole with a mysterious object on its head, which led to curiosity and discussion before discovering it was poo!

The children explored the Forest School site searching for different types of animal poo and attempted to match what they found to the story. They then gathered at the fire circle to listen to *The Mole Who Knew It Was None of His Business*, responding thoughtfully to questions throughout.

Inspired by the story, the children used mud and clay to create different animal poos, carefully considering size and shape. They created sausage-shaped mole poo, round horse poo, tiny rabbit pellets and flat cow pats. This activity supported fine motor skills, sensory exploration and resilience, particularly for children who found messy hands challenging.

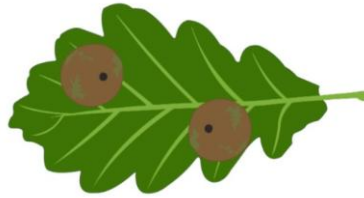
Some children independently revisited familiar activities such as filling bird feeders and using tools to cut the old Christmas tree. As temperatures dropped, Cedar class finished with a movement game to keep warm. The session ended with reflection on the story and discoveries made.

Elm

Elm class began with movement-based activities to warm up, revisiting their classroom learning about predators and prey. The children acted out a game where predators caught prey, helping them to understand food chains while keeping active.

They then sculpted predators and prey using mud and natural resources, adding details such as sharp teeth for predators and smaller bodies for prey. The children discussed animals found in the UK and woodland habitats while creating their models.

As the session progressed, some children became cold, so warm water handwashing was used to help regulate body temperature. The children then took turns using an axe under close supervision. They followed safety rules carefully, supported one another, and confidently gave feedback on safe techniques. The children thoroughly enjoyed this challenging and empowering activity.



Oak

As Oak class had already spent much of the day outdoors, their Forest School session took place indoors. The focus was on bees and communication.

The children shared prior knowledge about bees and learned how bees communicate the location of pollen through movement and dance. In groups, they attempted to communicate messages across the room using movement only, without speaking. This proved challenging and highlighted the importance of clear communication and teamwork.

The children then worked in groups to use their bodies to represent Forest School-themed words and life cycles. They created shapes for birds, working together as wings, beaks and legs, and acted out the life cycle of a frog from spawn to adult frog. This collaborative work encouraged discussion, creativity and confidence.

The session ended with reflection on the challenges faced and how the children worked together to overcome them. Although different from a typical Forest School session, the children embraced the experience brilliantly.