

St Joseph's Forest School – Thursday 27th February

All classes began their session gathered around the fire circle, discussing the transition from winter into spring. The children talked about subtle and obvious seasonal changes, including warmer weather, birds pairing up, and early signs of plant growth. They explored the Forest School site looking closely for leaf buds, blossom buds, unopened daffodils, bluebells, crocuses and new shoots in the vegetable plot. Despite the rain interrupting drawing plans, the children adapted brilliantly by using cameras to photograph their discoveries, handling the technology with great care and experimenting with different angles.

Some children enjoyed time in the hammock, practising turn-taking and safe entry and exit. Others demonstrated perseverance using mechanical drills, learning how to turn the cogs correctly and support one another by holding materials steady.

Cedar Class

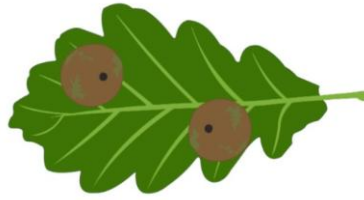
Cedar class have been growing beans indoors and used this session to explore plant growth further. The children examined their beans, identifying roots and shoots and discussing what plants need to grow and thrive. They carefully transferred their seedlings from bags into soil, thinking about the correct planting direction. The children took pride in potting their beans and placing them on the windowsill for sunlight, expressing enthusiasm about watering them daily.

To finish, they searched for further signs of spring before enjoying sensory exploration in the mud, showing curiosity and confidence.

Elm Class

Elm class explored seasonal change around the wider school grounds, spotting crocuses, snowdrops, pussy willow and emerging flower buds. They discussed less visible signs of spring, such as birds pairing up and rising temperatures.

The focus then moved to life cycles. In small groups, the children recreated the life cycles of butterflies, frogs, ladybirds and toads using natural materials. They collaborated effectively, collecting resources to represent each stage. One group created frogspawn using white stones, moulded mud and grass into tadpoles, and used leaves to represent froglets and adult frogs. The session concluded with group presentations, where children confidently explained their work.



Oak Class

With half the class attending a rugby tournament, Oak class spent their session building and managing a fire before cooking bread.

The children independently prepared wood using a billhook and mallet, lit the fire with flint and steel, and worked together to maintain it safely. They demonstrated strong communication and teamwork throughout.

The class prepared dough using Greek yoghurt, oil and self-raising flour, dividing it into portions and adding savoury or sweet flavours such as cheese, garlic, herbs, jam or honey. The dough was wrapped around sticks and carefully cooked over the fire. The children followed safety procedures, kneeling correctly and learning how to check when their bread was fully cooked.

They enjoyed tasting their creations and reflecting on what had gone well and how they could improve next time.