

Science in EYFS: Splash

The natural world is our playground and we spend a lot of our time out of doors exploring and learning all we can about the plant and animal life around us, as well as the weather and how to dress for it.

Forest School takes us on a weekly journey over the same fields and paths and into the same patch of woodland every week. This means we can see changes in the seasons and observe the cycles of growth and decay weekly. All our children are very observant and can spot new plants and signs of animal and bird life outdoors. We learn to name, respect and protect the world around us.

"Children cannot learn to love, that which they cannot name."



Autumn sees us picking and cooking

blackberries, finding conkers and fir cones and enjoying the masses of autumn leaves that fall. We learn about seed dispersal and hibernation.



In winter, we embrace the weather and find ice magic and watery swamps and puddles. We learn about keeping warm and dry and which clothing is waterproof and insulating.



We learn that keeping moving keeps our bodies warm and the importance



of a hot drink.





In spring, we watch the world come back to life and are able to find wildlife again and learn about the creatures who share our forest. We are so excited about the first snowdrops and primroses and our woodland puts on a good show for us.



In the summer months, our woodland is alive and shady and green. We have time to explore the stream, to make things from the natural objects there and to enjoy leisurely snack times and time to appreciate the wonder of the natural world. We find pond creatures, mini-beasts galore and watch the birds. We have met toads and hedgehogs up close and captured mice, rats and pheasants on our wildlife camera. We identify fox and badger poo and learn to keep heads covered in the sunshine and wear our sun cream.



Our school garden requires a lot of hard work to keep it weed free and dug over. We have rabbit defences to preserve our vegetables, and every child over the course of their time in splash grows veg from seed, weeds and cares for it, then harvests and eats it. This year we grew lots of different coloured carrots. We did a



tasted any different. No one could tell the difference! The children said digging for potatoes was like digging for treasure.



Our outdoor space is designed for exploring and experimenting and our children embrace this with great enthusiasm. We create rivers, swamps, mud kitchen dishes, islands, racing tracks, pizza parlours, all using natural objects and loose parts. We learn about the way water behaves with free access to the outdoor tap;



how things balance; different materials and their uses; wheels and brakes; turning and reversing; building and making strong walls, and we leave our projects out to work on until we are finished. We also feed the birds and have a range of nesting boxes which are well used.





In our classroom, we have lots of opportunities to learn about science and about working scientifically. Our baking table has a recipe and ingredients and children bake with a partner, checking their recipe. If they have a disaster, they work out what went wrong before starting again. The International Space Station was filled with wires and pieces of electrical equipment to experiment with and had lots of information about space exploration. Our hospital was complete with x rays, an anatomical skeleton and lots of bandages and when we learnt about the arctic we brought the ice indoors and guessed how long it would take to melt and release the arctic creatures trapped inside.



Every year we have creatures to care for and love. Sometimes caterpillars, tadpoles, chicks, ducklings or even baby pheasants rescued from the wild. This is the most magical time as our children take responsibility for the care of and survival of tiny lives and they take it very seriously. They adore their babies and come running in in the mornings to see them and watch them grow and develop. The whole school come to visit and we all enjoy the thrill of new life.

