



Forest Way School Newsletter

November 2023

A Word From Gail

Hi All

I have really enjoyed seeing so many of you in school this term at our events. The family social was a lovely opportunity to talk in more depth to some of you and we very much appreciated the feedback. The Halloween Walk in the Forest proved a great success and we are excited now to be planning Santa's Grotto—watch this space!

We have included a sample of some of the activities we have been doing this term. We continue to put an emphasis on our enrichment curriculum and we are very proud to have continued to develop this. A large part of enrichment is inviting companies into school so that our more complex pupils can experience multi-sensory productions in the comfort of school.

Please also take a look at our Duke of Edinburgh section which details the new work that we have been doing with the older Oaks students. This included a mass overnight camp at school which was enjoyed by all.

Please feel free to contact us if you need to discuss anything.

Best wishes

Gail

Carrot Productions



Key Stages 1 to 4 had a great time watching a performance of the Ugly Duckling by Carrot Productions. The performance included live music and dance, both of which interacted with the pupils throughout.

The pupils loved watching the performances and the opportunity to get up close with the instruments. We are already looking forward to the next time Carrot Productions come in!

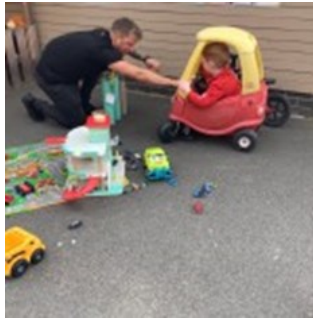


Contacting Us - parentsupport@forestway.leics.sch.uk if you need to get in touch outside of office hours

Acorns 1

A big welcome to all the new starters in Acorns 1. The children are settling nicely into their new class and are beginning to recognise the structures and routines within the classroom.

Among the highlights of the start of the year were practising our Harvest Celebration song and starting to go to Forest Schools with Holly. The children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring and playing in the woodland environment.



A pupil in Acorns 1 playing with his dad during our transition to school days.



Our first P.E. lesson in the hall.



Enjoying a woodland swing.



Ready to make a sensory



Exploring the environment.



Investigating acorns.

Acorns 4



Acorns 4 enjoyed taking part in many different activities to celebrate Harvest.

Diary Dates

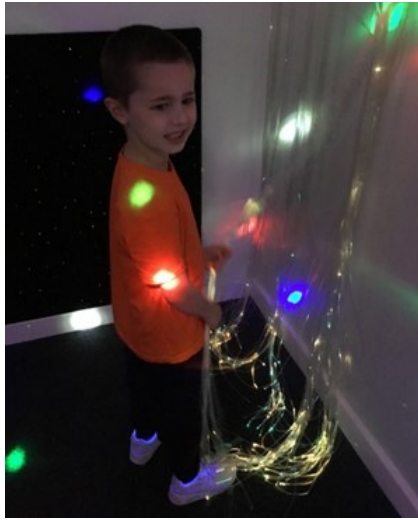
Tuesday 21st Nov 4:30-6:00pm	LSA Jobs Fair—come along if you're interested in working at FWS
Wednesday 6th Dec 10:30am	Post 16 Carol Concert at the church
Thursday 7th Dec 5:30-8:00pm	FWS Christmas Fayre—everyone welcome
Monday 11th Dec 10:00am	Acorns 2-5 & Den Badgers Christmas Carol Concert
Tuesday 12th Dec 10:00am	Acorns 6-11 & Den Bear Christmas Carol Concert
Wednesday 13th Christmas Dinner	Whole School
Friday 15th Dec 10:00am	Oaks 1-7 Christmas Carol Concert
Date T.B.C.	Acorns 1 Christmas Carol Concert

Acorns 3



Acorns 3 engaged with some fun Roald Dahl Day Activities -

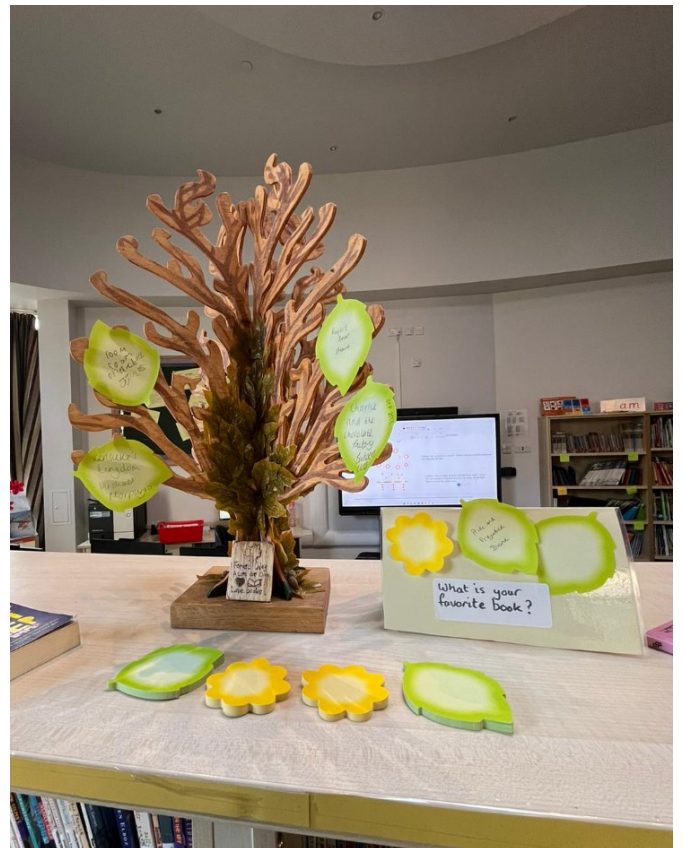
First, we explored the story of 'The Twits' - we read along with the story and used some signing before watching a short clip all about Mr Twit's horrible beard. For our activity, we had a go at recreating the horrible beard and used a variety of colours and textures, such as cornflakes, tissue paper, spaghetti and more to make it.



Next, we explored the story of 'George's Marvellous Medicine'. We focused on the potions George creates to make his Grandma giant. The children found this story very funny and engaged beautifully. We then used a mixture of materials to create our own potions.

A big thank you!

A huge thank you to Diane Pitcher for all of her hard work tidying and organising our library. It looks fantastic and is definitely now fit for its place at the heart of our school.



Books Donated



A big, big thank you to David Wilson Homes who have donated 35 books to the students of Forest Way School that share information about the different careers and skills involved in the industry.

The class really enjoyed completing the wordsearches and drawing a picture of their own house. We have some extra books to keep in our library for all the students in the school to enjoy!

Acorns 11

This half-term, Acorns 11 have worked hard to prepare for the Harvest festival. In class, the children have created Harvest decorations and practiced the Harvest song and dance. We even wrote our Harvest song, 'Harvest In My Soul' for the production!



Key Stage 2 Rabbits

The Rabbits (A7) have been celebrating Black History Month!

October was Black History Month, so the Rabbits have been learning about and celebrating black history! We listened to the story 'Mae among the stars' which spoke about Mae Jemison and how she was the first African American to go to space. We had a space themed tuff tray, small world play, rockets and lots of metallic/shiny materials to explore.



We listened to traditional African drum music while exploring the classroom activities. We had a tuff tray with rice traffic light, as the traffic light was created by a black inventor. We had books, African animals, small world play and lots of instruments to explore.



Key Stage 3 Twycross Zoo Trip



At the beginning of the autumn term, our students from Key Stage 3 went on a school trip to Twycross Zoo. We had a fantastic time, even if we did get very wet! We all managed to see lots of interesting animals, walk along the Gruffalo trail and jump in lots of puddles!

PE at Forest Way



The Oaks football team participated in the first friendly tournament of the year, hosted by Inspire2 network. The students came away with a fantastic result of 4 wins and 2 draws! Forest Way scored 8 goals and lots of happy and proud young people.



KS3 and KS4 have been participating in invasion games this half term within their PE lessons. Many groups have participated in games such as netball, basketball and lacrosse. Many of the students in 05 and 07 have enjoyed learning a different sport and the specific skills needed for a game of lacrosse.



The KS2 boys attended the 'North West Leicestershire Schools Sports Partnership' table tennis tournament this half term. The students came away with a total of 87 points and won 2 of their matches! The team had an excellent time and it was a great opportunity to meet others from local schools.



The KS2 girls attended the 'North West Leicestershire Schools Sports Partnership' table tennis tournament this half term. The team scored a total of 68 points and won 1 of their matches! The team enjoyed all the different matches, and all stated they wanted to carry on playing table tennis.

To: Staff and families of Forest Way CHRISTMAS FAIR WISH LIST

Can you help to make our Christmas Fair fundraiser a success?

Thursday 7th December 5.30-8.00pm

Please contact us if you are able to offer support, help or donations for the following:

- High quality items for raffle, tombola and white elephant stalls
- Gift hampers or vouchers for the raffle e.g. restaurants
- Gift hampers for local pubs to raffle on our behalf
- Donations of chocolate selection boxes for Santa's grotto (letter's of request provided by school)
- Wine or other alcoholic beverages for bottle stall
- Mince pies and cakes
- Stall holders- £5 for staff or families, £10 for external stall holders (Stall holders will need to request a form using the email address below)
- Fun crafts or activities e.g. face painting
- Entertainment
- Gift wrapping

All donations can be given to the main school office.

If you are able to support in any of the other ways, please contact
btocker@forestway.leics.sch.uk



Calling all speakers of other languages!

Calling out to all parents who speak a language other than English! We are hoping to build on our Modern Foreign Languages resources by having a set of videos that introduce a language (common words/phrases and counting to 10).

If you speak a language other than English and are willing to make a short video introducing your language, we would love to hear from you! Please write in your child's diary that you would be interested and we will get back to you. Thank you for your support!

Harvest Hamper



The kitchen team made a wonderful Harvest display which was then raffled off to staff at the end of the week. Every member of staff was entered into the draw and a number generator selected Mandy Whyman, part of our Cleaning team, as the lucky winner.

Forest Way Duke of Edinburgh Expedition 2023

Bronze Expedition

Forest Way students participated in the school's first ever Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) expedition this term as part of their Bronze award qualification. 48 students are currently completing the award which consists of 4 sections— Skills, Physical, Volunteering and an expedition. The students participated in all of the expedition activities over the 2 days. These included off site walking, outdoor camp skills, putting up tents and teambuilding activities. All activities were differentiated to suit the individual students' needs and abilities. The range of activities on offer included:

- Walking in Bradgate Park, map reading work
- Wildlife photography
- A visit to Hicks Lodge
- Forest School session
- Putting up tents
- Taking down tents
- Teambuilding activities

Overnight Camp

29 students were able to participate in the overnight camp, sleeping in either a tent, or one of our two classrooms in the Croft building. Nighttime activities included:

- Cooking food for their evening meal
- A glow stick lit forest walk at night
- Archery by torchlight
- Toasting marshmallows on the campfire
- Hot chocolate before bed
- Sleeping in tents in the rain
- Spending the night away from home

For many of our students it was the first time that they been away from their parents overnight. They were incredibly brave and not one of them complained or showed any worries throughout the whole two days!

Our staff are extremely dedicated to supporting the students and 26 of them slept overnight. 2 staff members also did a waking night which ensured that someone was instantly available in the night should a student need anything. A huge thank you to all of the staff for being so generous and giving up their time to ensure that all of the students who wanted to camp overnight were able to.

Oaks 8

The student in Oaks 8 loves cooking and was able to enhance their skills in the kitchen. They also joined our camp after school for a short visit and enjoyed having a good look around all of our tents and sitting in one of the big tents. They were able to share their beautiful singing voice with the camp.

Oaks 5 & 7 Bradgate Park

Oaks 7 students joined forces with Oaks 5, they split off into two groups. One group hiked around the park, the other used the pathway to visit Lady Jane Grey's house.



Toasting marshmallows around the campfire.



Oaks 9

Oaks 9 visited Hicks Lodge for the Walking section of their expedition.

Forest schools



Hot choc time



Bedtime



Enjoying a marshmallow



Forest Way Duke of Edinburgh Expedition 2023

Oaks 10 Bradgate Park

Oaks 10 students joined forces with Oaks 11, they split off into two groups. One group hiked around the park, the other used the pathway to visit Lady Jane Grey's house.



Oaks 11 Bradgate Park

Oaks 11 also helped with setting up and taking down staff tents.



Post 16 and staff camp set up outside of the croft building.



Gallery of pictures



Catering for staff

Many thanks to Paul & his team for keeping us all well nourished. The sausage butties in the morning were a highlight.



Wildlife Photograph competition winners

All of the students participated in a wildlife photography competition whilst out on their expedition.

Oaks 7 are our winners with this fabulous photo of a stag they spotted whilst walking up to the Old John Monument.



Thank you for supporting our expedition

Police Cadets:

Without the advice and equipment loaned from the Police Cadets, organised by Anthony Jones, we would never have been able to complete our overnight camp. This was our first ever expedition and as a school we have no overnight camping equipment such as tents etc. When we got in touch with Anthony, he did all he could to make our camp a success. We are incredibly grateful for the loaning of tents, roll mats and rucksacks. They have kindly offered to support the expedition next year by providing the same equipment, although our hope is that we can do some fundraising and obtain our own equipment.

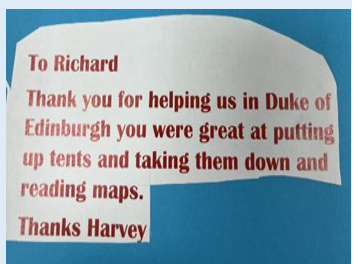
Ford and Slater DAF:

Richard Brown is an employee of Ford and Slater DAF whose wife works at Forest Way School. When he heard about our DofE expedition he kindly offered to support us. Richard is an Army Cadet instructor and DofE trainer and has a vast experience as he has completed the DofE Silver award.

Richard attended both of our practice expedition days at the start of the Autumn term and was able to help students and staff to practice both their camp and navigating skills.

Richard's employers generously granted him two days off work to attend both of our final expedition days. Many thanks to Ford and Slater DAF for allowing Richard to be able to support our expedition and take two days out of work.

On both days Richard joined the hiking groups at Bradgate Park and was able to teach the students basic navigating skills whilst also working on soft skills such as teamwork and never leaving a friend to fall behind.



Keyham Lodge:



Kieran Dexter works at Keyham Lodge School which is part of the Discovery Trust schools. Keyham Lodge supported our expedition by allowing Kieran two days out of school and a big thank you to them. Kieran was then able to be our DofE expedition assessor free of charge. This helped us to keep our costs low.

We are so grateful to Kieran for not only offering to assess the students completing the expedition but also for the time he spent advising during our planning stage. He was able to share his expertise on various team building activities and timings along with the logistics of running the two days.

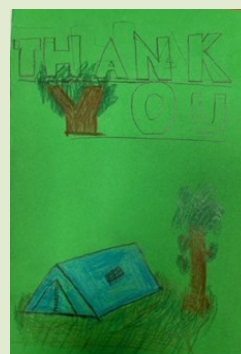
We need your help:

Our first ever expedition was a huge success, the students feedback has been incredible. We have learnt an awful lot and are already beginning to plan next years.

We would love to have our own camping equipment and expedition kit for our students to be able use during their practice activities as well as the final expedition.

We understand that things are difficult in the current economic climate but if you or any of the companies that you have links with are able to donate in any way please do get in touch.

forestway@forestway.leics.sch.uk



St. John the Baptist Church

We would like to invite our community to celebrate the birth of Christ by entering our

Christmas Tree Competition



25th November
10am-4pm

26th November
12pm-4pm

(Set up: 1pm-4pm 23.11.23, 4pm-6.30pm 24.11.23)

2nd December
10am-4pm

3rd December
12pm-4pm

Entry is free and open to all families, businesses, schools, play groups, Scouts and any out of school activities. Entrants can donate to charities.

Prizes for the Winners!

Contact: Office.WTSUnitedBenefice@gmail.com
Call/Text: 07591 035029/ See our Facebook page