

# The March Forest School Newsletter Sept wk 2



In the Forest, we play lots of games. Here you see the children are playing the 'Woodlouse Game'. It relies on the children working together as a team, communicating with each other as they come across obstacles and difficulties and learning to trust one another.

We have been looking at the Creation Story in RE. The children have re-enacted parts of the story, and are beginning to see the wonder in creating the tiniest creatures and the biggest trees!

I am always looking to find evidence of the impact of Forest School on children's development and this is an excerpt from one of the latest pieces of Forest School research undertaken by the New Economics Foundation and Forest Research. This was a Forest school evaluation and the objective was to explore the benefits and impacts on children over an extended period..24 children were tracked over an 8 month period.

They recorded ;

**Increased** self confidence and self belief came from having the freedom, time and space to learn and demonstrate independence.

**Increased** awareness of consequences of their actions on other people

**Acquired** better ability to work cooperatively with others

**More** sophisticated use of language prompted by their visual and sensory experiences

**A** keenness to participate in exploratory learning as well as the ability to focus on specific tasks for extended periods.

**An** increase in physical stamina and gross motor skills

**A** growing respect for the environment as children started to identify flora and fauna.



Today we turned our mealtime upside down by eating our pudding first! We made our own fruit crumble which was served with custard and then followed by sausages in rolls and of course the obligatory toasted marshmallows! We also made The 3 Bears Bowls using clay and then fired them in the embers. This will be followed up in class as we look at Shape, Space and Measures and recalling the sequence of the story

Many thanks to Mr AND Mrs Hughes-Jones, Mrs Parker, Mrs Andrews, and Mrs Pearce - our volunteers this week, for their fine cooking skills and enthusiasm! If you are able to, please come and join us

The children were delighted with their new swing which was a real hit! This required using lots of core strength and coordination and turntaking!