



When did you last see a Hedgehog?

Our newsletter this week has a strong hedgehog and forest school theme. Interestingly, The Wildlife Trust are conducting a survey of hedgehogs in partnership with Wild About Gardens. You can take part in the survey online and they have produced a wonderful pamphlet which tells you how to look after hedgehogs and encourage them to your garden.

<https://wildaboutgardens.org.uk/sites/default/files/2019-05/Wild%20About%20Gardens%20Get%20creative%20for%20hedgehogs.pdf>

Did you know that:

There are 14 different species of hedgehog around the world.

The UK's hedgehog is the European hedgehog –found across Western Europe and Scandinavia

Hedgehogs live on average for 2-5 years

An adult hedgehog has up to 7000 spines and a small, hidden tail.

There are now 40% less hedgehogs in the UK than 10 years ago.

This week several classes have been thinking about hedgehogs at forest school.



Sycamore Class have been thinking about hibernation at Forest School this week. They took inspiration from a book which Helen shared, 'Hodge the Hedgehog' by Amy Sparkes. They then created their own hedgehogs from clay and spent time considering where a good place to hibernate might be. "Somewhere warm" said Scarlett, "Underneath the leaves" added Ananda. "There's a cosy hole in this log" said Eden.



Hibernation science

Oak Tree class took the theme of hibernation further by putting hot drinks inside and outside the dens they had built to see whether the hedgehogs would stay warmer inside.

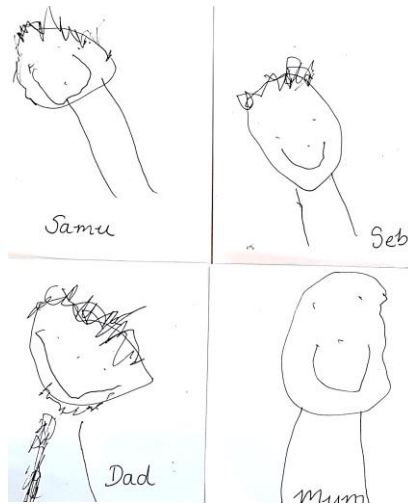




Question after question crowds out of his enquiring mind – how? why? when? what for?
 The child should experience nature 'in all its aspects – form, energy, substance, sound and colour'
 Friedrich Froebel

Humphrey the Hedgehog

This week the Kindergarten have been learning about feelings. Humphrey the Hedgehog came to visit but hid under a chair because the children were so BIG and he was scared they might not like him. Everyone took great care of him - holding him gently, stroking him slowly, talking in quiet voices, and he decided that he would like to stay in Kindergarten with his new friends. Some of the group said that stroking Humphrey made them feel calm which led to them trying other calming activities like Black Line drawing and yoga – namaste!



Mindfulness

Elder Class have been revisiting some of the mindfulness lessons with Chryso and reviewing their practice. They related many of the themes covered to their experiences of lockdown and the children have reflected on their feelings during this difficult year.

Meanwhile in Willow Class

This week at forest school Willow Class shared stories, songs and poems. It was beautiful to bear witness to the confidence the children exhibited in standing up to share their gifts.

We are all looking forward to some more sharing around the campfire next week



Menu for next week:

Monday: Spaghetti Bolognese (veggie)

Tuesday: Jacket potatoes, beans, hummus, cheese and veggies

Dates for your diary:

Virtual Lantern Festival: Monday 30th November

Last day of Autumn Term: Thursday 10th December

First day of Spring Term: Tuesday 5th January

Spring Half Term: 15th to 19th February