

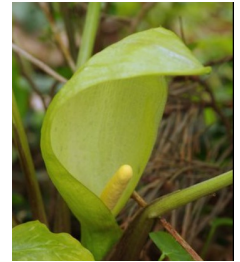
Forest School - Thursday 23rd March



Lilac set off for the woods this week in the time of the spring equinox, where daylight and night time are equal.



The children spotted some signs of spring and shared their plant knowledge. They explained that dock leaves are great for stings and how we must not get them mixed up with 'lords and ladies', which we found growing alongside them. These plants are not good for the skin and should not be picked.



On the way to the woods, the class played 'owl eyes', where they all had to hide in the meadow without being spotted. As a class they were surprisingly good at disappearing, from 26 children to none in sight!

We then learned how to play a game of 'Giants, wizards, elves' (similar to rock, paper, scissors) which Lilac played in year group teams.

Year fives won the contest today!

This week, the class learned about woodland management and helped out by moving and processing some of the wood which had been cut as part of the process of 'haloing' oak



trees. This is done to remove any competing plants from below the canopy, to allow the oaks to grow to become important ancient trees in the mature woodland- supporting a huge range of biodiversity.



The tools they used were loppers, secateurs, folding saws and bow saws, to cut up hazel into usable sizes and to saw the wood into lengths to then build piles for wildlife habitats to develop. It was great to see such teamwork and involvement - well done Lilac class.



The children also explored their own interests in the woods around the site. They particularly enjoyed working together to dig and explore in the stream. They had to use the tools and sturdy sticks to dig some children out of the thick mud which they got stuck in!



Many thanks to our volunteers for your support and engagement in Forest School.