

# Outdoor Learning – 10th October 2022

## Gardening Delight



What a busy, busy week we've had! At this time of year, there is lots of treasure lying at our feet – leaves, sticks, acorns, conkers, sycamore keys. Deciduous trees drop their leaves to get ready for winter when they go into a kind of hibernation, conserving their energy for a burst of growth in the spring.



Leaves come in all shapes, sizes and colours – some of them look really beautiful when you hold them up to the light, just like a stained-glass window!



Through the magnifying glass, you can see all the veins and patterns on a leaf. Some have serrated edges like a knife, some are smooth and rounded and some have lobes (like your ear-lobe). On some leaves we saw evidence that insects had been there either eating or laying their eggs. We found lots of similarities and differences to talk about – it's amazing how interesting natural treasure can be.



Our gardens were in need of some TLC after the flowers and veg we planted had died down. We all got stuck into weeding, digging, raking and planting to get them ready for winter.







It took a lot of determination and teamwork, but we had that by the bucketload, so managed to do some fantastic work. There were even a few carrots and parsnips left to harvest. We've got a bit to finish off next week, but we're pretty impressed with our work so far.



Even with all this going on, we still found time to read, build and make delicious concoctions in the mud kitchen.



We made a few improvements to our tippy-tap. It is working much better, but is not quite finished – we hope to have ironed out the glitches by next week.



Keep your eyes open for natural treasure when you are out and about. You could use these spotter sheets to help you identify what you find:

[http://treetoolsforschools.org.uk/activities/pdfs/pdf\\_autumn\\_leaf\\_hunt.pdf](http://treetoolsforschools.org.uk/activities/pdfs/pdf_autumn_leaf_hunt.pdf)

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