

Sticks & wool creations



The dead hedge



HOP NEWS

November – December 2025

The rain, cold and mud has not stopped Year 6 from enjoying HOP.

One group dedicated lots of energy to create a dead hedge with garden cuttings, which will now be a wonderful habitat for creatures to hide, nest or find food.

Under a tarp shelter with wool and sticks, some patience and perseverance others wrapped and wove a range creations.

Thanks to some hard-working Year 6 we have lots of leaf litter gathered and bagged up to provide excellent compost in a year or so.

Together with the forester Bill Blight, who donated the logs around the bonfire area, we set up a tree planting experiment. How will the size of the chestnut seed affect the size of the tree seedling?

Leaf litter compost



Bill's tree planting experiment





Lemonbalm tea & popcorn



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Lemonbalm tea and popcorn were on the menu for the bonfire sessions. With inventiveness and flair paper was folded to make cones for the popcorn, or in some cases beautiful bags and trays!

Creativity continued in the mud kitchen where natural materials and of course some mud were carefully crafted into Michelin star dishes!

Clay was also worked into an exotic array of creatures.

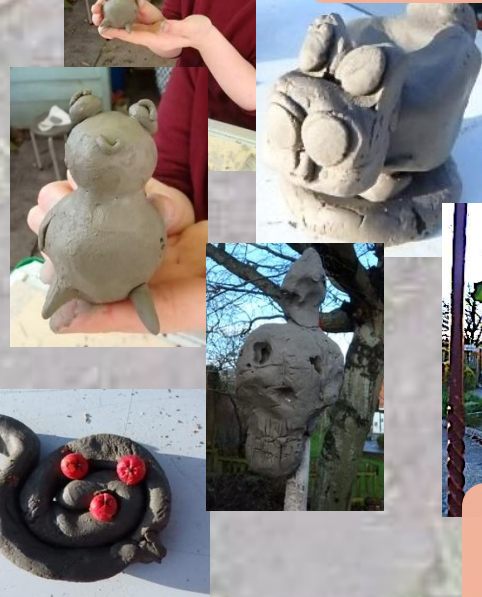
Using extendable loppers and secateurs a great variety of evergreen cuttings were gathered from the school grounds. Carefully combined with willow these have made some beautiful winter wreaths.

A memory scavenger hunt ended the term, demonstrating how much the children know about the diversity of nature found around the school grounds.



Bowhill's Michelin star mud kitchen

Clay creations



Nature scavenger hunt



Winter wreaths





THANK YOU!

HOP sessions this winter would not have been possible without generous funding from:

Bowhill PTFA

Bowhill Crowdfunder

Devon Community Foundation

The Schreier Foundation

Hele's Educational Trust

Highmead Farm

Exeter Community Lottery

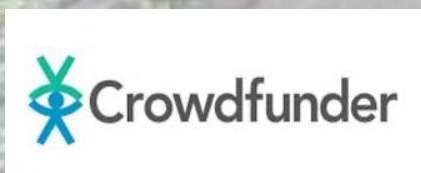
Thanks also to Bill Blight for resourcing and setting up the tree planting experiment.

And finally thank you to Lou Jones for joining in as a HOP volunteer and inspiring us all with her wildlife knowledge.

HIGHMEAD FARM



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