



Rescuing the elves

Rebuilding the elf village

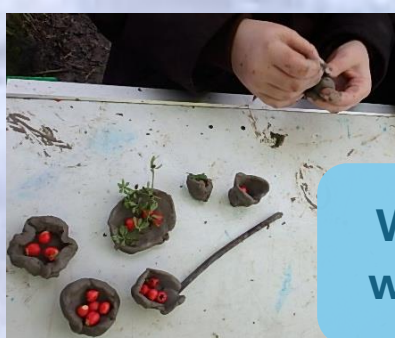
HOP news

January – February 2026

Despite a very cold and icy start to the year, rain and mud filled the rest of the half term. But this did not deter HOP and thanks to all the waterproofs and wellies donated by the PTFA everyone stayed “mostly” clean and dry!

Year 2 Hedgehog Class enjoyed a fantastic half term of HOP, taking part in an exciting Elf adventure! After discovering a note on the shed door from some elves and their animal friends whose homes had been flooded, the children eagerly searched the school grounds to find all six elves and the missing animals.

They carefully rebuilt their homes using natural materials and lots of creative inventiveness.



Working with clay



HOP news

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As part of the elf village rebuild, children had a chance to use bow saws and hammers to cut wood pieces and turn them into furniture. They also shaped clay to make bowls and even an armchair.

Some clay ended up decorating the nearby Hornbeam tree with some mysterious faces!

Having rebuilt the elf village, it was time for Year 2 to try building their own dens. You've got to be careful moving long sticks around, avoiding hitting any friends and making sure the den build is safe and strong. Year 2 did a fantastic job!



Using tools



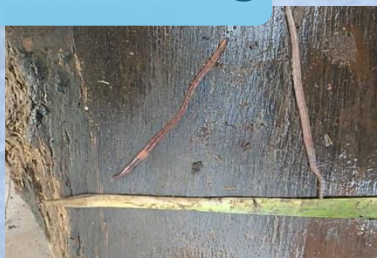
Den building



Wood chip day



Worm racing



Mud mash & sausage or a mud taco anyone?



Potato peeler whittling



HOP news January – February 2026

Year 2 and Year 6 worked incredibly hard to move a generous donation of wood chip from Devon Tree Services. Their teamwork and determination have made a huge difference to a very muddy area behind the bike sheds.

With all the mud around, how could Year 6 resist opening the mud kitchen? It didn't take long for an impressive menu of dishes to emerge with chefs calling for service!

Alongside mud kitchen cooking, other Year 6 found their flow in potato peeler whittling.

And we mustn't forget to share the photo finish of an exciting worm race – it was neck and neck right to the end!

(All worms were returned safely to the soil after their race).





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

The Norman Family Trust

Exeter Community Lottery

Thanks also to Devon Tree Services Ltd for donating the wood chip.

**HIGHMEAD
FARM**



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