

Halloween and half term Newsletter – November 2025

It has been a brilliant autumn. Many Forest School children come back time after time as they grow in love and understanding of all the woods can offer at any given season.

What is nature telling us, I ask.

Fungi have been spectacular this year – including several that we had not recorded previously. Here you can see the **Penny bun** and **Flyagaric** fungi. I am so grateful to the children at Pheonix Montessori who have helped spot them and identify them.

[Phoenix Montessori](#) provides Term-time Tutor & Forest sessions for children not attending school in our woodland.

The rich and varied habitats are good for small birds and there are interesting newcomers like [Firecrest](#) (pictured by [Anita Menger](#) from [Pixabay](#)) and [Goldcrest](#). We definitely have two breeding pairs of Firecrest on site. The tiny **Firecrest** vies with the **Goldcrest** for the title of the UK's smallest bird.

In terms of **trees**, it has been a mast year for **Sweet chestnut** and **Oak**, as well as a bumper year for **apples**. And we keep planting new trees – including this special **Cherry** tree, planted by the children at Blacknest Forest School.

Two **bat** surveys have helped to familiarize ourselves with these wonderfully clever mammals. **Common pipistrelles** and **Sopranos**, **Noctules** and **Serotine** – roosting in dead standing trees that make perfect habitats.

The new pond in the field has been a useful stopping place for **birds** and the deer who roam freely. We trust the **foxes** and **badgers** come at night to drink.

Whittling and fire striking are favourite activities – not learnt elsewhere – but it is the wide range of options on offer that lead parents tell me that our Forest School is their favourite holiday club.

