

## Squirrels report 2022

YAY! Our first year of squirrels has been a massive success! The squirrels have enjoyed a range of activities throughout our year, and we have met some very strong characters along the way. It's been a big year for our section and it's been a massive learning experience for our leaders. This year has been jam packed with investitures, activities and adventure, and we have enjoyed every minute of it!

Most of our evenings have been based on different books, we've made stickmen, super-potatoes and even gone on our very own bear hunt! We enjoyed swishing through grass, running through snowstorms, getting wet in the rushy river and crawling into the dark bear cave... that is until we found the bear! Food has also been a big part of our programme, from making sandwiches to pancakes or fruit kebabs to s'mores, our squirrels (and leaders) have loved making and eating our creations. Our squirrels have loved getting messy this year experimenting with all things sticky! We've made playdough, potions, slime and some magnificent bubbles!

We have enjoyed experiencing different festivals and celebrations throughout the year, like firework night, Chinese New Year and St Georges day. A big thank you to one of our squirrels who shared their own religious festival, Hanukkah, with all the other squirrels (We even learnt how to play dreidel and won lots of golden coins!) It's been so interesting to learn about our individual squirrels and we are very grateful to our parents and squirrels for sharing their own cultures.

Our squirrels have gone home with plenty of artwork and creations we have made this year, and the results have only got better as we've got through the year! Some of our squirrels learnt how to write Chinese symbols, while others enjoyed making silhouette safari pictures of some of the ugliest animals in Africa. We decided our squirrels had to go a little wild this year, and we loved getting involved with all things nature! From making bug houses to planting flowers, the squirrels loved helping the environment. We even managed to get our squirrels to Reinden wood this year to start developing our den building skills! With pegs and pipe cleaners we all got stuck in making our own dens that could fit a squirrel or two!

The highlight of our year had to be our first adventure at the SQUIRRELS GO NUTS Day. Our squirrels tackled so many challenges and new experiences with some of the biggest smiles we've ever seen! We saw our squirrels enjoy caving, bouldering, fencing and so much more! We are all so proud of our squirrels that attended, and we can't thank our volunteers enough for making it happen!

We can't wait for what's to come for our squirrels over the next year. Our first set of squirrels, parents and leaders have made this year so special and I can't thank everyone enough for their

support with our newest section! Here's to the next year, which will be full of even more adventure, outings and getting messy!

**Beckie & the Squirrel volunteer team.**