

Context: Digging provocation

Reception
Age 4-5

Title: Owl Pellets

Adult-led focus on close observation

The children had a real interest in digging during last week's forest school so this week we have enhanced many areas of continuous provision with a link to digging things. To link to our theme learning about amazing animals we dissected real owl pellets.

First we predicted what it was. We then learned that it was an owl pellet and talked about what we could see. We think the owl had eaten a mouse or a bird as we found a tiny skull, feathers and fur.

Child-Led Interest: Digging
What do you notice?
What can you see?

We are learning to explore the natural world around us by making observations and asking questions about owl pellets.

It has a skull and bones.

We found a mouse.

I don't see fur.

Fact: Pellets are the undigested parts of a bird's food, such as hair or bones, which are regurgitated (coughed up through the beak).

What do you think it is?

Ethan "I think it is a rock"
Evangeline "I think it's from a tiger"
Isla "I think it is a snail"
Seth "I think it is from a dragon"
Max "I think it's from a mammoth"

Owl Pellets

What can you see?

Daisy "It has tiny bones."
Seth "We have a big skull."
George "I saw hair?"
Theo "I think it was a bird."
Alfie "I saw a dead..."
Alfie "I might have..."

What animal do you think it is from?

Beak	Wings	Feathers	Hoof	Horn	Long legs and wings	Hoof legs	Long tail

Possible future provision / next steps

Find out about what other animals eat. Explore bones in our bodies and in the bodies of other animals.

Learning outcomes (Development Matters, Reception):

Understanding the World: Explore the natural world around them.

Example from Plympton St Mary's Infant School, Plymouth