

~ Mrs Owl's ~
FOREST SCHOOL

THE WET WELLY DAY



Illustrated by **Seb Braun**

A story
to share &
activities
to try!



This book belongs to:





Dedicated to
Niamh - S.B.

A TEMPLAR BOOK

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Stay safe!

It's important to stay
safe while you play outside.
This symbol will warn you when
you need to take extra care.



Forest School kit list:



Water
bottle



Waterproofs



Sturdy
shoes



Something
to eat

Extras for a rainy day:



A waterproof
hat or cap



Wellies

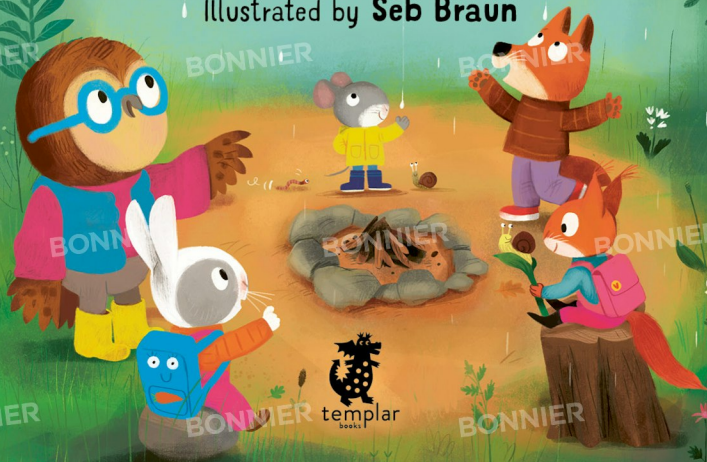


Waterproof
trousers

Mrs Owl's
FOREST SCHOOL

THE WET WELLY DAY

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Deep in the woods, beneath the trees,
the animals are gathering.
It's time for Mrs Owl's Forest School!

Mouse, Squirrel, Fox and Rabbit sit in a circle.
Above them, grey clouds are gathering, and a
few big wet drops of rain fall on the ground.



Mouse, Squirrel, Fox and Rabbit look up at
the sky - they can tell the weather is changing.

What is the weather like where you are
today? Can you hear, feel or smell different
things depending on the weather?



"Oh no," squeals Squirrel.

"IT'S RAINING!"

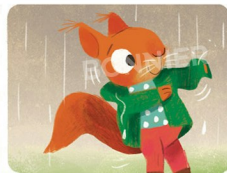
Heavy raindrops are falling
all around them.

"We can't play out in the rain,"
says Rabbit sadly.

"Of course we can!" says Mrs Owl.
"Quick, everyone into your waterproofs."



Mrs Owl helps the children change into their waterproof jackets and trousers.
They all have welly boots, too.



"See?" says Mrs Owl.

"There's no such thing as bad weather - just the wrong clothes!"

"But what are we going to DO?" says Mouse.
"There's water EVERYWHERE!"



Lots of things change when it rains. What else is different when it's wet? Can you see the worms that have come up to enjoy the rain? Or the snails?

"That's right!" says Mrs Owl. "There IS water everywhere. But these puddles will only be here for a little while. How can we have fun with them?"

Fox jumps right into the biggest puddle.

SPLASH!



"And look," says Squirrel.
"There's a tiny stream - that wasn't there before!"

"Well spotted," says Mrs Owl.

"Would you like to make a little boat that we can send down the stream?"

MRS OWL'S GUIDE TO MAKING A BOAT

You will need:



2 Big Sticks for the base



10 Smaller Sticks



String (at least 1 metre)



Scissors



Cloth

1. Snap your small sticks so they are all about the same length.



3. Repeat this for all other sticks. Do the same thing on the other side of the boat.



2. Tie the first stick to the base, making a criss-cross shape with the string.



4. If you want a sail, tie or glue your cloth onto another stick and push it firmly between the sticks of the raft.



The friends send their boats sailing down the stream.



"Mine's winning," says Fox, splashing after it.

"Don't splash me," says Mouse. "I don't like it!"



"Sorry!" calls Fox, over his shoulder, but he is already racing ahead.



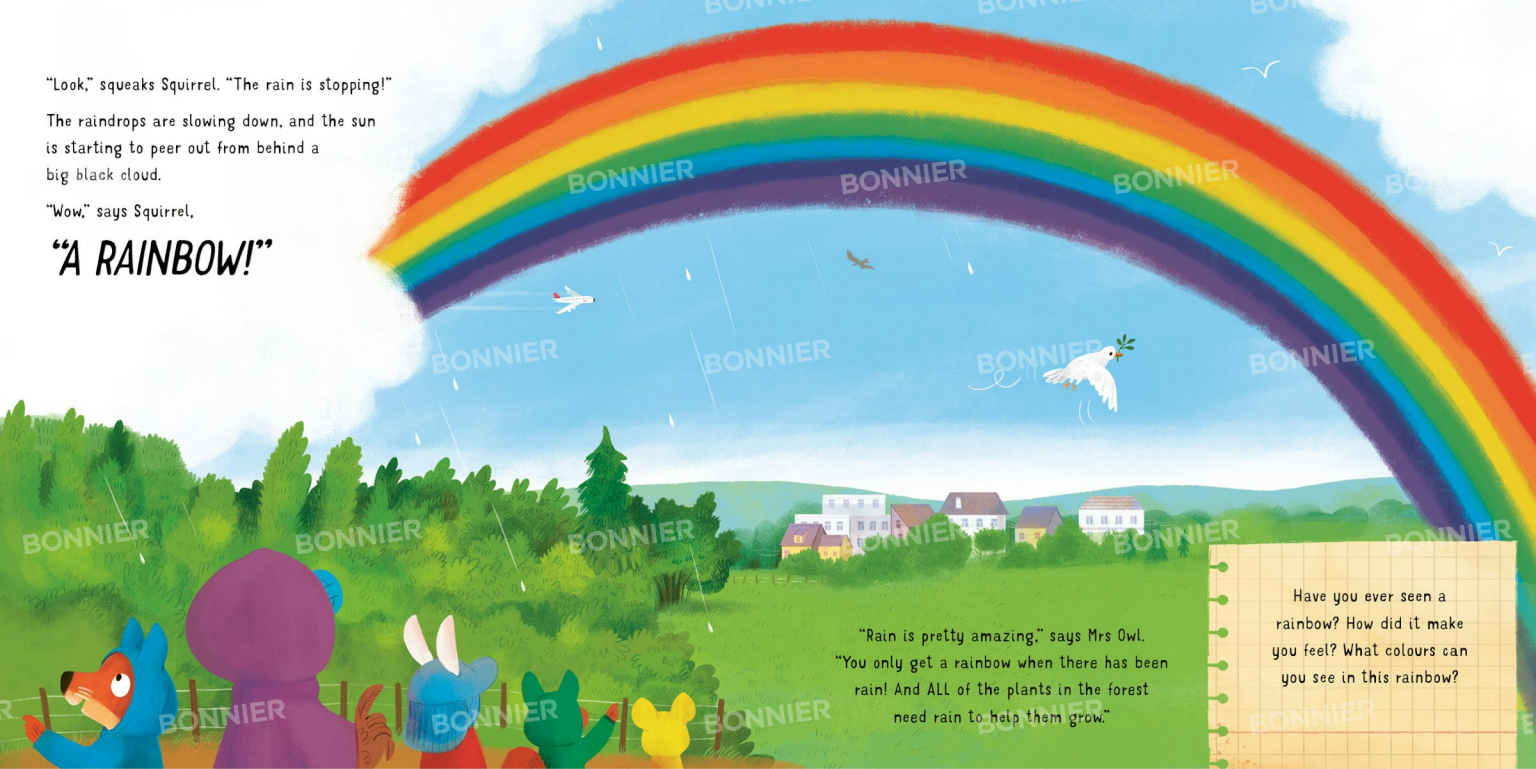
"Don't worry," says Rabbit. "Fox is just excited."

"Look," squeaks Squirrel. "The rain is stopping!"

The raindrops are slowing down, and the sun is starting to peer out from behind a big black cloud.

"Wow," says Squirrel,

"A RAINBOW!"



"Rain is pretty amazing," says Mrs Owl.
"You only get a rainbow when there has been rain! And ALL of the plants in the forest need rain to help them grow."

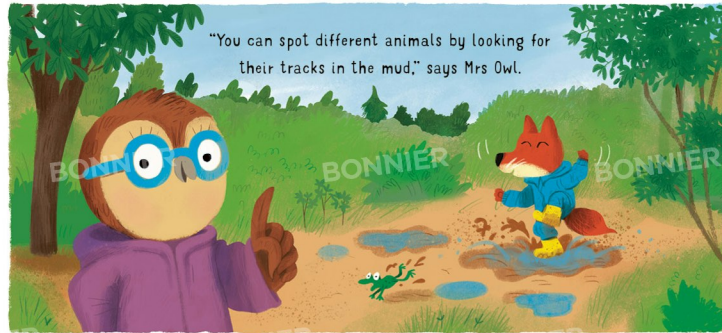
Have you ever seen a rainbow? How did it make you feel? What colours can you see in this rainbow?

It might not be raining anymore,
but it is still wet on the floor - and VERY muddy.

"Look," says Squirrel.
"I can see your footprints!"

"Mine are smaller
than yours,"
says Mouse.

"You can see where we've
been!" says Rabbit.



"You can spot different animals by looking for
their tracks in the mud," says Mrs Owl.

MRS OWL'S GUIDE TO IDENTIFYING TRACKS

See if you can spot some of these prints, or any others, during your rainy day adventures.



BIRD



DUCK



RABBIT



FOX

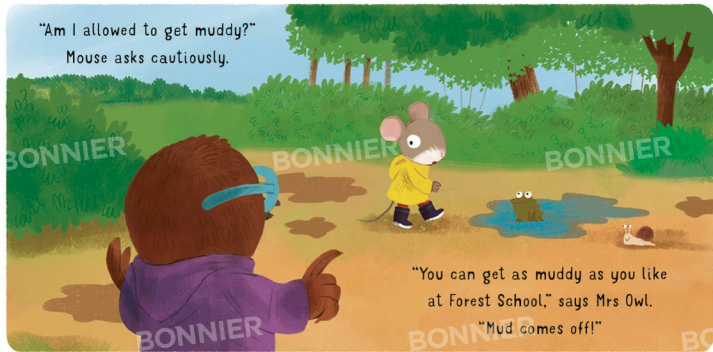


DEER



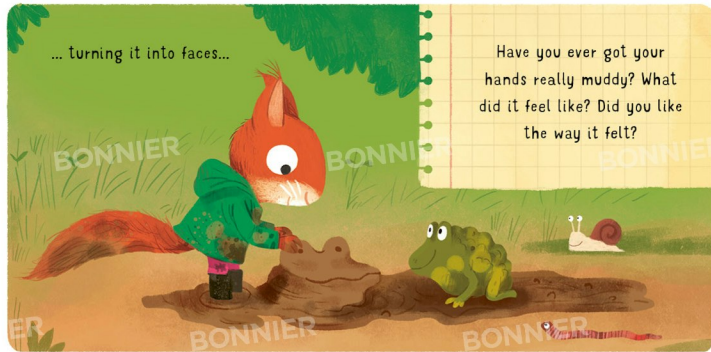
SQUIRREL

"Am I allowed to get muddy?"
Mouse asks cautiously.



"You can get as muddy as you like
at Forest School," says Mrs Owl.
"Mud comes off!"

... turning it into faces...



Have you ever got your
hands really muddy? What
did it feel like? Did you like
the way it felt?

The mud is fun for stamping and
splashing in. Some of the mud is gloopy
and thick - like clay!



The animals have fun
rolling it in to balls...

... and making big
chocolatey mud pies.



MRS OWL'S GUIDE TO MAKING A MUD HEDGEHOG

You will need:



Sticks or Pinecones



Small stones



An old wooden spoon

1. In a bucket, mix together dirt and water to make a muddy mixture. If you don't have a bucket, you can mix it all into a ball on the ground!
2. When the mud is nice and thick, use your hands to shape it into a ball for the hedgehog's body.



3. Push your sticks into the ball to make the hedgehog's body.



4. Use small stones to make the hedgehog's eyes and nose.



5. Give your hedgehog a name - then wash your hands



"Wahey!" says Fox.
"This mud is so fun!"

Fox jumps up and down
and up and down
and...

...right into
Rabbit's mud pie.



Fox looks down at the mess.
He isn't jumping up and
down anymore.

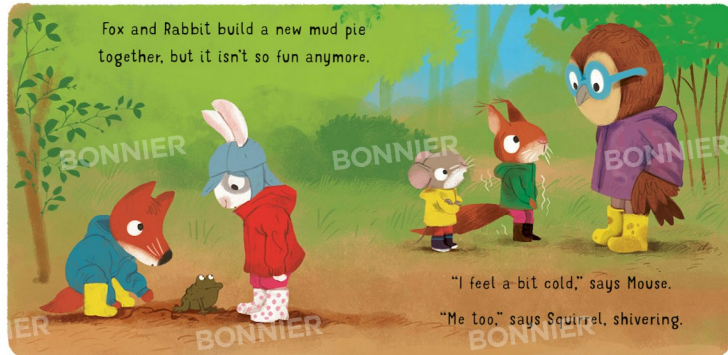
"I'm sorry," says Fox.
"I didn't mean to
squash your pie."



Rabbit tries her best to smile.
"It's ok," she says,
but she still looks a bit sad.

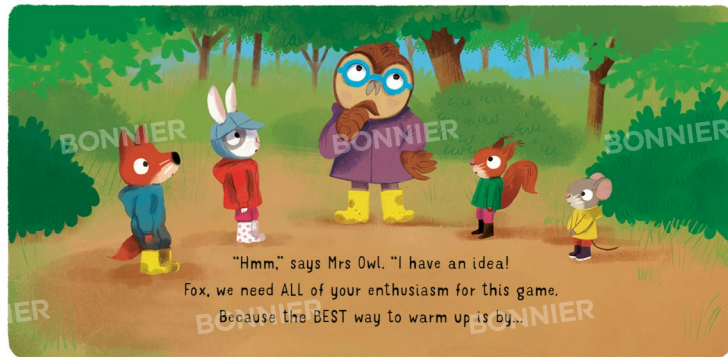
"That was kind of you to say sorry,"
says Mrs Owl. "Sometimes, when
we're excited we forget to take
care of things and other people.
But you showed great care thinking
of Rabbit's feelings now."

Fox and Rabbit build a new mud pie
together, but it isn't so fun anymore.



"I feel a-bit cold," says Mouse.

"Me too," says Squirrel, shivering.



"Hmm," says Mrs Owl. "I have an idea!
Fox, we need ALL of your enthusiasm for this game.
Because the BEST way to warm up is by..."

“...running around!!”

“Fox - you're 'it!'”

The animals are all grinning, and soon they're nice and warm again.

They can't believe the day is nearly over.
And the wet weather just made it extra fun.



Everyone chases each other through the forest playing 'it'.
They dodge the trees, jump in puddles, race as fast as they can,
and only slow down to take care where the mud is extra-slippy.

“There's just time for one last
thing...” says Mrs Owl.

It's hot chocolate round the fire!

Every day at Mrs Owl's Forest School ends the same way.
The animals sit around the campfire, sipping their toasty hot drinks.



Fires can be dangerous!
Only light a fire with
a supervising adult.
Never leave it unattended,
and don't get too close.



The rain has finally stopped, and everyone is caked in mud,
but they each have a big grin on their face.



"It's home time now," says Mrs Owl.
"See you next time you come to Forest School."

Everyone can enjoy what Forest School has to offer. It doesn't matter if you go to Forest School or if you've never heard of it! Whether you live in the countryside or the city, you can try some of these activities...

RAIN ON THE WAY

Meteorologists are scientists who study the weather. They can predict what the weather will be like days or even weeks into the future.

But there are also some every-day signs that rain is on the way. See if you can spot some!



Looking at the clouds! White, wispy clouds usually mean fair weather. Low, dark clouds mean rain.



There are signs in nature that a storm is coming. Birds will circle in the air, and pine cones will close up.

Have you ever heard the saying "Red in the morning, shepherd's warning; red at night, shepherd's delight"? Scientists say this old saying is usually true!

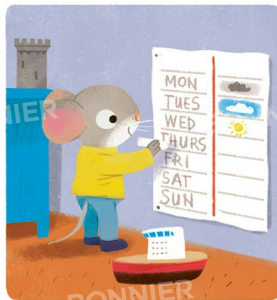
Red sky in the morning warns of storms, but if spotted at night, the next day's weather be a delight!



WEATHER CHART

You could keep a 'weather diary' to document how the weather changes day by day. Write or draw a picture to show what the weather was like every day. Do you notice any patterns?

Does the weather ever put you in a good mood, or a bad mood? Some people like rainy days, and some people prefer sun. Which do you like best?



Sometimes it's just too windy or the rain is too heavy for it to be safe to play outside. Why not build Mrs Owl's boats out of everyday things in your house and sail it in the bath?



Never play outside in a thunderstorm. If you are outside when a storm starts, stay away from large trees and do not use an umbrella.



Join the animals for another
Forest School adventure in:

Look out for more books coming soon...