Cadishead Primary School

Thursday 13th December 2018

Weather: very cold!

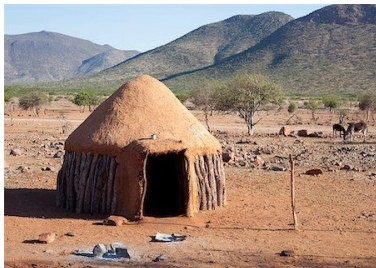## Growing Outside

Group: Year 6
Tree Guardians

Today, Year 6 have been exploring the properties of soil and sculpting tree guardians.

First of all we talked about what the school building is made from: concrete, bricks and cement. These materials have all been made by humans.

But what did people use hundreds of years ago before these materials were invented? The children guessed that they would have used natural materials such as wood, stone and mud.

Natural materials have used for centuries to make everything from buildings, jewellery, toys and ornaments. Mud (soil and water) is particularly useful because it can be moulded into many different shapes.

We looked and felt a sample of mud. It was very sticky because it contained lots of clay so we were able to roll it into balls and even make little bowls. We rubbed it between our fingers and we could feel it was slightly gritty meaning there was also a bit of sand in it. Some soils have less clay and more sand meaning it's not as sticky so you can't mould it into different shapes.

Next we explored the soil in the school grounds. This too had lots of clay in and was sticky. Perfect for making sculptures so I

challenged the children to make tree guardians. Tree guardians are mythical creatures that guard trees through the cold winter months.

Using some soil and a little water, we rolled the mud into balls. We then pressed these against trees to represent a face where they stuck very well because of the sticky clay. Next we decorated the faces using leaves, grass, berries and twigs for the hair, eyes, nose and mouths. The end results were very magical!

We estimated how long the faces might stay on the trees. We agreed that if it was summer, they might dry out and stay up for a few days. However, as it rains quite a lot through winter, we predicted that our faces will probably get washed away very soon! Hopefully the other children will get to see them before they do!

You did a great job today despite the cold,

Well done and see you soon,

Catherine