



Welcome to forest school.

Here you will find some information about our forest school provision. Please read through the information carefully and go over with your child/children. At forest school we look after three things, ourselves, our friends and our environment.

Where is forest school?

Our forest school site is located within the school grounds at the bottom of the sports field. It has many features including a muddy kitchen, bird hides, bug hotels, den building, slack line, willow dome, tree swings, an area for tool work and of course our purpose-built fire pit.

Our environment is woodland that has a variety of plants and trees, including hazel, ash, rowan, willow, brambles, nettles and many grasses and wildflowers. It is not unusual to spot the grey squirrels in our forest area and a vast variety of birds.

When does forest school take place?

Forest school runs over periods of five weeks on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30-5pm.

Please collect your child from the hall side door unless told otherwise. The children will come into the hall to collect their belongings then will be dismissed by the staff.

Individual risk assessments of each child will take place by the forest leads, class teachers and Senior Leaders to ensure the safety of the child. We reserve the right to withhold places where necessary to ensure the safety of the child, staff and other forest school pupils.

Who runs forest school?

Miss Bell- Level 3 forest school lead, outdoor first aid trained.

Miss Greenfield- Level 3 forest school lead, outdoor first aid trained.

Mrs. Pilkington- Level 1 forest school assistant, first aid trained.

Clothing

Forest school is always outdoors whatever the weather, it is only cancelled in very windy weather in accordance with our risk assessment. Appropriate clothing must be worn, in the summer months the forest area is cool and shaded so long sleeves and trousers should be worn. This also protects arms and legs from stinging nettles. In wet weather waterproof clothing should be worn, the children enjoy making mud slides so be prepared for very muddy children. During cold weather clothing should be layered with dry warm clothing under waterproof over clothes. Wellies or walking boots should be worn at all times in the forest area, even in dry warm weather the muddy kitchen is in use and you can't make mud recipes without adding water to the mud!

Tools

Working with tools is a valuable experience at forest school. Children will only be using the tools after they have been given a demonstration of each tool. The children will work closely with the forest leads when using tools.

Fire Safety

The fire safety rules are taught in reception and are reinforced throughout the school. Please go over these rules with your child/children. The fire safety rules are as follows:

- Only enter the fire circle when invited to do so by a grown up
- Do not approach the fire unless invited to do so
- You must use the fire safety position when next to the fire
- You must use the fire glove when putting wood on the fire
- What goes in the fire stays in the fire
- Do not throw anything into the fire

General forest rules

To ensure the safety of all participants of forest school the rules must be followed. Please go over the rules with your child/children.

- You must stay in the forest area
- Do not pick berries or mushrooms
- Do not throw sticks/stones
- Use sticks appropriately with others safety in mind.
- You may play with sticks that are no taller than yourself
- You must wash your own cup/bowl/cutlery
- If you find litter/glass, tell a grown up so they can remove it safely
- Three whistles mean return to base camp
- One long whistle means evacuate forest and assemble on the field at the goal post

Behaviour expectations

All the usual school rules apply at forest school, Ready, Respectful, Safe. It is of utmost importance that all the forest rules are adhered to due to the nature of the activities taking place. If rules are broken and the safety of the group is put at risk the child may lose their place at forest school.