

Forest School & Outdoor Learning Lessons

Curriculum Statement



Forest School Leader: Specialist teacher Mrs Berrell, Level 3 Trained Forest School Leader

Outdoor Learning Teacher: Miss Auster

Forest School & Outdoor Learning Assistant: Mrs Simons

Time per week: Children (Years 1-5) have 1 session (approx 2hrs long) every other week. 15 children per session.

Homework: NA, but children are encouraged to continue practising new skills and exploring outside school.

Enrichment activities:

- FS & Y1 Camping Day in the Summer Term
- Year 4 take care of the school allotment beds,
- Y6 Gardening Club
- Biodiversity Day

INTENT

All Forest School and Outdoor Learning sessions are inclusive to children of all abilities and are linked to the natural world. Sessions seek to consolidate classroom learning by drawing on each child's cross-curricular knowledge to solve practical problems and complete creative tasks.

Forest School and Outdoor learning Lessons aim to:

- Equip children with the skills to think independently, and act to keep themselves and those around them safe.

- Give each child confidence in their own abilities, and encourage them to take ownership of their own learning.
- Boost each child's self esteem, self-confidence and independent problem solving skills.

IMPLEMENTATION

KS1: I can identify things in the world around me...

Focus on:

- Improving observation skills using all available senses (similarities, differences, patterns etc)
- Learning how to self risk assess and modify behaviour accordingly
- Expand vocabulary - using the correct names for things.
- New experiences - what am I capable of doing? Dipping toes outside the usual comfort zone.

Lower KS2: I can explore the world around me... Focus on:

- Improving problem solving skills - working independently or in a group
- Practise investigative skills - what happens if...? Why does that...?
- Understanding that failure IS an option - learning how to learn from mistakes.
- New experiences - pushing ourselves to achieve more than we thought we could.

Upper KS2: I can influence the world around me... Focus on:

- One person can make a difference - how our behaviour can affect the world around us.
- Improving teamwork skills - How can I be an effective member of a team and influence the team's success?
- New Experiences - setting own goals and working to achieve them by drawing on cross curricular knowledge and harnessing available resources.

IMPACT

Each child's engagement and progress in different activities are monitored during a session. Once the available session activities have been explained, staff input during a session is minimal, encouraging when needed, and suggesting stretch activities for those looking

for more of a challenge. Observations made feed into planning subsequent session activities with a view to maximising learning and self development opportunities for each child, and are fed back to teaching staff where appropriate.