



What is Forest School?

The ethos of Forest School is based on a fundamental respect for children and young people and for their capacity to instigate, test and maintain curiosity in the world around them. It believes in children's right to play; the right to access the outdoors (and in particular a woodland environment); the right to access risk and the vibrant reality of the natural world; and the right to experience a healthy range of emotions, through all the challenges of social interaction, to build a resilience that will enable continued and creative engagement with their peers and their potential.

Forest School is based more on the process of learning than it is on the content - more on the 'how' than the 'what'. This means that genuine Forest School practice steps boldly out of the shadow and limitation of 'planned activities' and ventures collaboratively into the realms of the unplanned, unexpected and ultimately unlimited. Children and young people are given encouragement to direct their own learning - this often requires catalysing on the part of the Forest School leader either through stimulating play in the outdoors or through 'scaffolding' a child's learning, but mostly through simply observing how children are in the outdoors.

Significantly, and on many levels, a woodland environment is central in supporting this very dynamic approach to learning: the passage of time, from the changing of the seasons, to the contemplation of an ancient tree; the dynamic nature of an outdoor environment - an infinite source of smells, textures, sounds and tastes; a range of visual stimuli from near to far, high to low, very big to very small; and the infinite layers of historical, cultural, spiritual and mythological significance that speak of our deep relationship with trees and woodland through the ages (FSTC).

Key Features of Forest Schools



What activities have we have done at Forest School?

- Den building
- Climbing
- Playing in the mud kitchen
- Going on a minibeast safari
- Making clay faces on trees
- Creating natural artwork
- Building a bug hotel
- Making animal dens
- Learning about fire safety, making and cooking on an open fire.
- Whittling
- Using a bow saw to make a tic tac toe game.
- Tree Planting



Our New Forest School

In 2017 we designated the back of the field to build a Forest School within the school grounds! This area will be developed slowly over time.



Our aim is to include an outdoor classroom within our Forest School to enable us to access resources during a Forest School session.



The long-term vision is to make Forest School accessible to the whole school. In Summer 2017 the Year 6 children enjoyed participating in a lunch time Forest School club where they built dens, went on minibeast hunts, played in the mud kitchen and whittled wood to make spoons!

