

How we encourage our children to learn outdoors

- Creatively
- By using mathematical skills
- By developing their language
- By finding out about our world
- By developing their physical skills
- By developing children's natural curiosity



Where did Forest School come from?



- Originated in Sweden in 1950's
- Adopted by Denmark
- Bridgewater College, Somerset
- Forest School Initiative
- Support by Forestry Commission Wales

Forest School provides opportunities for a child to...

- Explore and discover using their senses
- Construct
- Repeat and consolidate
- Represent
- Create
- Socialise
- Develop their thinking
- To be self motivated
- To become independent

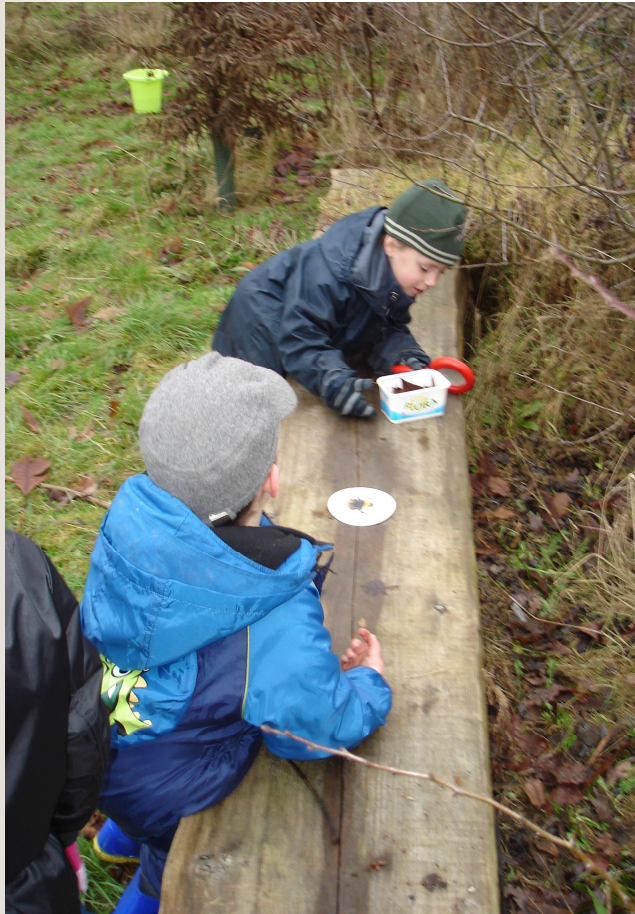


Why is play outdoors important?



- Holistic Development
- Social and behavioural skills
- Intellectual development
- Emotional development
- Spiritual development
- Physical growth

How are we able to provide Forest School?



- Developed a derelict piece of land within the school grounds
- Applied for Lottery funds totalling £9000
- Joined BBC Breathing Places
- Trained as Forest School Leaders Level 3
- Fund raising activities

What is Forest School?





What will the children learn?

- **The Forest School learning environment provides opportunities for the children to develop:**
- Self-esteem
- Self-confidence
- Positive relationships with others
- Independence
- An awareness of their emotional needs and those of others
- Positive dispositions towards learning
- Co-operation with adults and peers
- The ability to assess for risks and know when it is safe to take risks
- The ability to make decisions for themselves
- Independent learners
- Care for the environment and living things
- An understanding of the world around them
- An appreciation of nature and have a sense of awe and wonder

How does Forest School promote learning?

- By learning outdoors Forest School provides children with opportunities to be active and it is through movement that children can develop their ideas, thoughts and make connections
- Children learn best by direct experience
- Children are naturally active
- Provides children with activities and challenges that will develop their love of learning.
- Gives children opportunities to engage with the natural environment
- Children's interests used to stimulate creative thinking and problem solving



“I want to be a tree”

Environmental Considerations and Conservation

- Environmental awareness
- Respect and responsibility
- Conservation issues.
- Environmental issues.
- Empathy and care





What is our role?

Children are helped to deal with risks in situations where adults are “scaffolding” their learning.

- **Adults are there to:**
- Support
- SHARE skills
- Talk
- Listen
- To promote a “can do” attitude
- To model –show children how to handle equipment safely.
- To question and respond to questions
- To offer constructive feedback
- To celebrate achievements and goals
- To provide a safe, secure and enriching learning environment: in terms of emotional, intellectual as well as physical development.

What will the sessions entail?



- Forest School is delivered on a weekly basis for children aged 3 – 7 years.

Types of activities:

- Tree, plant and wildlife identification
 - Pond and woodland study
 - Seasonal knowledge and understanding
 - Team building activities
 - Making habitat boxes
 - Using natural materials to make crafts
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- **HAVING FUN AND EXPERIENCING LEARNING OUT OF THE CLASSROOM**