

What is Forest Schools?

Forest Schools were developed in Denmark in the 1950s and are focused on teaching children about the natural world. It is an engaging and motivating woodland based approach to learning. The philosophy of a Forest School is to inspire individuals through a range of positive experiences. Through activities based in the woodland, children will develop personal, social and emotional skills. These will include independence, self-esteem, confidence, communication skills and self-discovery. Sessions are planned by the children in collaboration with the Forest School leader, based on their interests and ideas; this ensures children feel ownership of their learning.

Where will it be?

- A small area of woodland behind the school, formerly known as 'Hilly Bumps', and now designed specifically for schools to use as a Forest School.

Who will run it?

- The school has three Forest School leaders, who have Level 3 qualifications.
- The Forest School leaders are; Miss Kelly Margetson, Miss Georgia Slade and Mrs Kim Matthews.

When will Forest Schools take place?

- Throughout the year, children in the different year groups will have either morning or afternoon sessions during a half term.

What will the children need?

- Forest School will take place in all weather conditions.
- Therefore they will need waterproof clothing and wellington boots.
- The children will also need a spare pair of clothes to wear underneath the waterproof clothing. This is to ensure their school uniform doesn't get wet or damaged.
- During the winter the children will need extra layers to ensure they don't get cold.
- Children will always need to have long sleeves and trousers to protect them.

How are the children kept safe?

- *Research shows the benefit of children's calculated risk-taking to their personal safety, self-esteem and confidence.*
- *Children will be supported to make decisions based on the benefits and awareness of the risks involved in an activity.*
- *All Forest School Leaders have an Outdoor Paediatric First Aid qualification.*
- *All group leaders have DBS checks.*
- *The site is checked carefully before each session and risk assessments are undertaken for every activity.*
- *Please see the School website for further information.*



What will the children do at Forest Schools?

Woodland experience – looking and listening for wildlife, minibeast hunts, nature detectives, animal homes.

Woodland crafts – weaving, dream catchers, whittling, jewellery, working with wood.

Physical experience – climbing, rope swings, low ropes, balancing, digging, movement through games, building shelters and dens.

Creative experiences – singing, story-telling and imaginative play.

Conservation experiences – bulb planting, bird feeders and supporting the sustainability of the woodland.

If you have any further questions please arrange to speak to a Forest School leader.