

Forest School at BBA

Forest School and the National Curriculum

How does Forest Schools support the National Curriculum and my child's learning?

Activities are planned by our forest school teacher to tie in with the class' current learning journey or to consolidate prior learning in different curriculum areas.

What sort of activities will go on at Forest School?

The first sessions will always focus on core skills and safety. Activities will increase week on week and may include: games; storytelling; natural art activities; use of tools (if skills and behaviour indicators secured); exploring, nature watching and bug hunting; climbing, rolling; practical woodland skills (e.g. willow weaving); building dens, sculptures; time to be quiet, reflect or talk; develop the ability to observe silently – to look and hear what's happening around them.

We will be learning how to lash, knot, use loppers, peelers and hand drill and with these new found skills we will be making bird tables and re-cycling old wellies to make nests-in-boots! The willow will be coppiced using loppers and these willow whips will be woven into the willow dome to make a bird hide.

Forest School is more about the process than the activities set. Whilst there will be structure, all classes will also steer their own learning journeys and have the freedom to explore, make their own choices and apply their knowledge and skills.

Forest School sessions seek to consolidate all areas of the curriculum and build and extend knowledge:

LITERACY - Children will use descriptive vocabulary to describe woodland objects and plants, through sensory games. All of these sessions use speaking and listening, key literacy skills such as exciting vocabulary which then permeate all areas of learning. They will talk and share ideas about how we can help to look after the planet.

SCIENCE –The students have been looking at different habitats and we've been identifying some in the school grounds. There are foxes, badgers and numerous birds and insects to identify and learn about. We will be consolidating this learning by finding examples of each and learning more about the animals that live in our immediate environment.

MATHS – Children measure lengths of sticks and consolidate 3D shapes when making their dens.

ART and DT – The Forest Schools curriculum gives all children the opportunities to cut wood and shape it safely using a range of tools. They will learn how to use a hand drill, peeler and loppers. They will also learn how to lash pieces of wood together and how and why we tie different knots.

PSHE – For students with SEMH, the opportunity to work collaboratively on projects helps develop social skills and friendships. The larger space and being outside of their classroom gives a very different learning experience.

We will also aim to nurture a deeper bond with nature and consider how much joy it can bring us, and how we in turn should respect and look after our planet. In developing the school grounds we will consider all children and all needs and how we can create spaces that provide experience for multiple senses. In addition, to the forest school adjacent to our grounds we are planning to plant a new woodland area with native trees. The infrastructure and design will be improved so that every child can have positive learning experiences. We will seek feedback and make improvements