



St. James'

Forest School Information

Booklet





St. James' Forest School Ethos:



St. James' Forest School offers a unique learning experience outside the classroom, offering children a regular chance to experience the forest environment in a fun, exciting and stimulating way. It gives an opportunity to promote environmental awareness and a deep love of the natural environment as well as supporting the social, emotional and physical development of the child.



Our aim is to give every child in Key Stage 1 the opportunity to:

- *Take risks*
- *Make choices*
- *Initiate learning for themselves*
- *Explore our ever changing environment using all their senses.*
- *Develop a range of new and useful skills through an individual's preferred learning style.*
- *Develop an awareness of nature and the environment.*
- *Increase self confidence and self-esteem*
- *Form positive relationships with others.*
- *Develop a growing awareness of their emotional needs and the needs of others,*
- *Improve their ability to work together as a group and develop team work skills.*
- *Increase motivation and learn alternative attitudes.*
- *Engage in positive experiences to help impact on their progress in the classroom with curriculum based tasks and activities.*
- *Review and recognise own achievements.*

Forest School is about exploring and experiencing the natural world through a range of practical experiences. The children go out at all times during the year and experience all different weathers, exploring and learning from the seasons and environmental changes.

The children's interests and the natural resources in our 'forest areas' are used to stimulate creative thinking, problem solving and skill development and set them up for lifelong learning.

Some of the activities the children might engage in include:

- Creating artefact's using resources from the environment.
- Nature awareness games
- Building shelters
- Exploring the local habitat
- Craft skills
- Finding out about animals and where they live
- Bark rubbings
- Camp fires
- Camp cooking
- Scavenger hunts
- Sensory games
- Finding out about flora and fauna
- Tree planting
- Tree climbing
- Exploring natural and man-made objects
- Exploring 'Green' issues



The Forest School Site:

The Forest School site is located at the back of the school playing field and is bordered by a willow fedge. The fire circle and fire pit are central to this area and there are over 100 trees including silver birch, apple, cherry, hazel and oak. This is where all fire, cooking and tool work takes place.

Clothing:

Waterproofs are provided by school but children will need their own Wellington boots. These will be kept in school at all times.

Autumn/Winter/Spring

- Wellington boots
- **Two pairs** of warm socks
- Navy blue jogging bottoms
- White P.E. t-shirt
- Navy blue sweatshirt
- Warm coat
- Warm hat
- Thick gloves
- Woolly scarf



Summer

- Wellington boots
- **Two pairs** of socks
- Navy blue jogging bottoms
- White P.E. t-shirt
- Sun hat

Daily Procedures:

- Risk assessments and site checks will be completed each week.
- The Forest School Leader will ensure that all staff/helpers are familiar with procedures.

