

Earl Sterndale Forest School

at High Edge Wood



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Our Forest School is designed to enhance and complement our day to day curriculum in both the Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage One. It offers all our children opportunities to develop confidence, self-esteem and to experience achievement at High Edge Wood, a short drive from school.

Our core objectives are to produce confident and capable children like these.



Benefits of Outdoor Learning

Forest School is a long term, repetitive learning process that uses a natural outdoor space.

It is a specific ethos of learning that focuses on processes rather than products and allows learners time and space to develop at their own rate. Learners develop a strong sense of space through repeated contact with the natural world throughout the year.

Forest School empowers children and young people to take responsibility for their own learning and development.

The ethos encourages child-led learning and learning through play. Choice increases enjoyment, participation and motivation. Children are set up to achieve and supported to take appropriate risks through developing trust in themselves and in others.

Forest School promotes holistic, individualised learning and development.

It is for all ages and abilities and its ethos is fully inclusive. The natural environment provides stimulus for all senses, all areas of development and all learning styles; visual, auditory and kinaesthetic.

Forest School encourages emotional growth, self-esteem, confidence and independence.

It gives learners the time and space to be themselves, find peace and communicate with others in a safe and caring environment. Emotional literacy is actively practised by adults and children within a Forest School.

Forest School instils a deep respect and awareness for the natural world and reconnects participants to their environment.

The repetitive ethos builds a deep, instinctual connection to the natural space. Being in nature allows learners to observe real life, witness cause and effect and consider our roles and responsibilities towards it.

Activities at Forest School

Forest School has no set of prescribed activities. Nearly any type of outdoor learning activity could be undertaken as part of a Forest School process. It is the ethos in how the activities are delivered that make it part of Forest School.

Within a Forest School:

- Learners have a choice in what activities they undertake.
- Practitioners observe learners carefully in order to plan for next steps.
- Practitioners introduce relevant skills, knowledge and resources based on what the learners are interested in and need to develop.
- Practitioners set up learners to achieve by breaking tasks into small achievable chunks.
- Practitioners focus on process rather than product.
- Tasks are open – no right or wrong way of doing things (exceptions to this are health and safety procedures).

These are just a few of the activities children have undertaken within our Forest School programme...

Minibeast hunts

We went on a bug hunt and found their favourite habitats.

After observing them ...



...back in the classroom we drew our bugs.



Sensory Activities



After recognising the signs of autumn, we designed this print using the leaves collected.

Seeds from our sunflowers... to grow again next year.



Shelter building,



Woodland crafts –3D Art, patterns and natural weaving,

Tree faces



Patterns



Team building, trust games, circle games and problem solving activities



Wildlife conservation pond dipping



food chains



nest building



Imaginative activities – story telling, drama, role play and songs



Physical play –balancing, log dragging and digging



Science Investigations-

Investigating which fruit is the tastiest to the bugs in the forest.



Hollowing out potato, grapefruit, orange and melon. We took photographs and weighed each fruit before taking them to the woods.



One group chose a place by the old, rotten logs where there were lots of bugs such as beetles, woodlice, flies and

After two weeks...

The grapefruit was definitely favourite!



Another group decided to hide their fruit under the leaves.