

# Lionel Walden Primary School



Outdoor Learning  
Experiences



# Format

- Welcome: Mrs Bayes
- Forest School: Mrs Latchford
- Outdoor learning time



# Principles and Ethos

1. A long term process of frequent and regular sessions.
2. Taking place in a wooded or natural environment to support the development of a relationship between the learner and the natural world.
3. Promoting the holistic development of all fostering resilient, confident, independent and creative learners.
4. Offering learners the opportunity to take support risks.
5. Run by qualified and trained practitioners.
6. Create a community for development and learning using a range of learner-centred processes.

Forest School Association - Principles of Forest School

# Forest/Outdoor Learning



Long term outdoor sessions delivered within a natural environment whatever the weather! Our sessions will be tailored to meet the needs of the children as they grow in confidence, skills and understanding.

The ethos of Forest School is child led, allowing the children to discover and investigate for themselves without being hurried. The practitioner allows the learners time and space while always observing for opportunities to scaffold and facilitate further learning. Children are actively encouraged to be curious, experiment and discover for themselves during sessions.



# Long term Impact

- Early sessions will concentrate on establishing boundaries, safety and routines.
- Once the children are comfortable and familiar with the outdoor setting the sessions will focus on developing skills, promoting nature connection and developing a sense of community within the group.



# Long term Impact

- Develop personal and social skills
- Develop their communication and language skills
- Improve focus and concentration
- Build resilience through practical problems and challenges
- Use tools to create
- Pursue their own interests
- Learn how to manage failure



# Long term Impact

- Build confidence in decision making and manage their own risk
- Develop practical skills
- Understand benefits of a balanced and healthy lifestyle
- Explore and gain better understanding of nature connection
- Become motivated
- Get outside!

# Sessions

The children will have the chance to do lots of new, interesting and exciting things throughout the forest school.

- Flora and fauna identification
- Natural Art and Crafts
- Ropes
- Experiencing a full year in nature
- Outdoor games
- Storytelling
- Mud play
- Building dens and shelters
- Exploring
- Hunting for mini beasts
- Observing wildlife
- Natural weaving
- Tree identification





# Sessions

- In time, and where appropriate, we will introduce activities that involve using tools such as knives, saws and loppers.
- We will also introduce a fire pit and learn about fire safety and cooking.
- In time we look forward to welcoming parents and carers back to support sessions regularly.



# Timetable

- Forest School will take place weekly on a Tuesday morning.
- Children will arrive at school in their Forest School clothing. Uniform to be brought in named bag if they need to change after. The site is on the school grounds and will take place in the nature garden and the school field.
- Session structure generally follows:
  1. Nature connection/spark
  2. Game - boundary games
  3. Talking circle
  4. Busy learning
  5. Snack
  6. Goodbye



# Cancelling

- 'No such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing.'
- Some exceptions: high winds of and exceeding 25mph as determined by the Met office online. In the case of extreme temperature, determined by a Met office amber weather warning. In the case of extreme cold below zero degrees Celsius. In the case of thunder and lightning.
- Staff absence meaning the adult:child ratio is compromised.

# Kit

- 'No such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing.'

## Winter

- Base layers - vest, long sleeved top, thermal layer.
- Thick jumper, fleece
- Leggings and joggers.
- Thick socks (thermal or two pairs of thin ones)
- Waterproof trousers and coat
- Wellies or waterproof shoes
- Hat, gloves and scarf



# Kit

- 'No such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing.'

## Summer

Thin long sleeve top

Thin trousers

Socks

Waterproof shoes or wellies

Sun protection and insect repellent (applied before school)

Sun hat

Thin waterproof coat and trousers or all in one

Clothing that covers arms and legs is essential all year round to give more protection. We are climbing, foraging and exploring!



# Questions

- If you think of anything else later then please come and ask during the session.