



Forest School Long Term Plan 2023/24

Intention:

The ethos of Forest School is based on a respect for children and their capacity to initiate, investigate and maintain curiosity in the world around them. It believes in a child's right to play; the right to access the outdoors (and in particular a woodland environment); the right to experience risk in a controlled way in the natural world along with the right to develop their emotional intelligence through social interaction, building a resilience to enable creative engagement with their peers and their potential.

Forest School is an inspirational process that offers all learners regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences in a woodland or natural environment with trees.

The woodland environment is central in supporting this approach to learning: the changing of the seasons, the contemplation of an ancient tree, the dynamic nature of an outdoor environment - an infinite source of smells, textures, sounds and tastes and a range of visual stimuli all contribute to the Forest School learning experience.

Our Forest School encourages children to:

- Develop personal and social skills
- Work through practical problems and challenges
- Use tools to create, build or manage
- Discover how they learn best
- Pursue knowledge that interests them
- Learn how to manage failures
- Build confidence in decision making and evaluating risk
- Develop practical skills
- Understand the benefits of a balanced and healthy lifestyle
- Explore connections between humans, wildlife and the earth



- Regularly experience achievement and success
- Reflect on learning and experiences
- Develop their language and communication skills
- Improve physical motor skills
- Become more motivated and improve their concentration skills.

Implementation:

Activities for Forest School are diverse and numerous, we are trying to create independent learners who are inspired to try out their own ideas, explore their own interests and to attempt new ideas. Our Forest School curriculum has progression woven through its design, whereby children build on and develop the skills they already have as they move throughout the school. Children master prior knowledge as a way to enrich this further with new learning. Focused learning sessions crafted into blocks help the children to retain and use this learning in different contexts and for different purposes. The high standards of teaching and learning in Forest Schools lessons promote cross curricular links from across the whole curriculum, ensuring learning opportunities are relevant, purposeful and explicit learning connections are made between subjects.

We work on the principle that "there is no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing". Before each session the forest school leader must carry out a risk assessment of the forest school site. The forest school leader must identify and remove/reduce and risks that are found during the risk assessment to ensure that learning can always continue.

Impact:

Forest school lessons should make learning more relevant to their lives in the community and wider world. We encourage children to be responsible for and respect the local community and environment giving them a sense of belonging and ownership of the place in which they live. We explore the uses of the local area, integrating subjects so that meaningful activities can be planned and delivered effectively and regularly. We bring learning to life.



We measure the impact of our curriculum through the following methods:

- Images and videos of the children's practical learning captured on Seesaw.
- Interviewing the pupils about their learning (pupil voice).

We believe at Newlyn School, that our Forest School curriculum develops the cultural capital of our children, understanding the environments around them and how they can be active citizens to support the sustainability of this in school and within our community. We believe that through the use of the Forest School sessions, the mental health and wellbeing of our children becomes a continued focus in line with the aspirations for academic success. We give the children opportunities to gain and master different and new skills; always encouraging our children to be the best they can be.

Forest School Curriculum 2023-2024

	Foundation	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3/4	Year 4/5	Year 6
Knots	Introduction to basic knots Use of elasticated bungee fixings	Introduction to basic knots Use of elasticated bungee fixings for shelters Make rope bridge between trees Eg: Sheer Lashing	More sophisticated use of knots for attaching structures to trees Eg: Overhand knot, half hitch, bow line, taught line hitch, reef knot	More sophisticated use of knots for attaching structures to trees Eg: Clove hitch, Lashing and Frapping techniques, Square lashing, slip knot	More complex knots and selecting the correct knot for the job Eg Shelter hitches	More complex knots and selecting the correct knot for the job Eg: Able to teach different knots to others, timber hitch
Shelter Building	Introduction to basic shelter building with	Supported construction of tripod	Independent Use of Tripod structures	Create a natural shelter using materials found in	Create and build various sized shelters using	Shelter Building Challenge



	<p>support</p> <p>Mini den building for small animals, "fairies"</p>	<p>structures/teepees</p> <p>Erect a lean to shelter with support from perimeter fence</p>	<p>Introduction to lashing techniques</p> <p>Create a freestanding lean to shelter - Kennel of A-frame</p>	<p>the woodland</p> <p>Teepee shelter with camouflage</p>	<p>tarps and materials found in the woodland</p> <p>Work successfully as a group</p>	<p>Working in Teams the children plan, build, test and review their shelters - sturdiness, durability, weatherproofing and fit for purpose</p>
<p>Fire Safety/Fire Making and Cooking</p>	<p>Observe and talk about the safety of the fire and how to be safe around it</p> <p>Fire Triangle: Heat, Fuel, Oxygen</p> <p>Toasting marshmallows - keep hands low</p>	<p>Re-enforce and talk about fire safety</p> <p>Movement around a fire</p> <p>Extinguishing a fire</p> <p>Contribute to fire lighting by gathering fuel</p> <p>One Pot Cooking - Hot chocolate</p> <p>Use of Kelly Kettle</p>	<p>Re-enforce fire safety</p> <p>Contribute to fire lighting by gathering fuel</p> <p>Making and cooking simple bread</p>	<p>Re-enforce fire safety</p> <p>Understand types of wood required to start a fire and keep it going (tinder, kindling, fuel)</p> <p>Gather fuel to light fire</p> <p>Use a flint and steel to light a fire and add fuel to keep it going</p>	<p>Re-enforce fire safety</p> <p>Prepare and light a fire with supervision</p> <p>Experiment with different types of fire - Teepee, log cabin, raft, star</p> <p>Toast marshmallows</p> <p>Extinguish Fire safely</p>	<p>Re-enforce fire safety</p> <p>Prepare and light a fire with supervision</p> <p>Use best method from previous experiments eg - Teepee, log cabin, raft, star</p> <p>Cook bread and hot chocolate</p> <p>Use of Kelly Kettle</p> <p>Extinguish Fire safely</p>



Using Tools	Introduction to tools Peelers for Whittling	Use of basic tools Peelers for whittling Secateurs for cutting	Use of basic tools Peelers, secateurs Bush Knives to be used with 1:1 ratio Flint and steel	Develop skills with using a range of tools Bush Knives, Bow Saw, Flint and Steel	Develop skills with using a range of tools Hack saws, Drills Flint and Steel	Develop skills with using a range of tools Bush Knives, Bow Saw, Hack Saw, Drills, Flint and Steel
Art	Use natural materials to create artwork	Make clay animals	Print using natural materials	Sketch Trees and plants	Use shapes in nature to inspire artwork Dream catchers	Design and make a natural creation Decorations, Ornaments, items of use
Impact Event	Investigate and Create Bug Hotels	Spiders Web Knot Challenge	Design and Create Woodland Games	Art Attack Sculptures	Shelter Build Challenge	Ready Steady Cook