

English curriculum and Forest School

Forest school effectively complements and enriches the English curriculum by providing a hands-on, multi-sensory environment that fosters literacy and communication skills

- **Boosts speaking and listening skills:** The natural, collaborative setting encourages children to communicate more freely (sharing feelings and ideas), develop new vocabulary, and give clear instructions during tasks like building a shelter or playing warrior games (listening to others). Group times discussions will encourage the children to ask relevant questions to extend their understanding and knowledge as well as answering questions using well-structured explanations and descriptions, explaining their answers and giving reasons.
- **Improves creative writing:** Time spent in nature provides inspiration for in class descriptive writing and poetry. Children can observe and describe things like the texture of bark, the sound of birds, or the feel of the wind through their own personal experiences.
- **Expands vocabulary:** The outdoor environment is full of new sights, sounds, and objects. This offers countless opportunities to introduce new vocabulary related to plants, animals, weather, and the landscape in a practical, meaningful context.
- **Develops storytelling and narrative:** Sitting around a campfire provides a natural setting for sharing stories and songs with each other. Children use story stones to create stories both individually as well as in groups. Children enjoy re-enacting scenes from familiar tales like The Gruffalo or Little Red Riding Hood, making abstract concepts concrete (sequencing and retelling). Children also like to create "journey sticks" made by attaching objects found along a journey they have taken to a stick, which is then used to recount the day's adventure. Children also role-play what they have been learning in class – the stone Age, Iron Age etc and create stories/games around this.
- **Develops reading for pleasure and using books to answer questions:** Children have access to reading books, reference books, field guides etc and children have unlimited access to these. Children like to find a suitable spot and sit and look at/read books as well as using them to find information about something new/different they have discovered in Forest School.