

FOREST SCHOOL



OUR INTENT

Forest School at Kings Road promotes resilience, curiosity and independence while allowing children to connect to the natural world. Forest School takes a holistic approach to learning, giving children the opportunity to explore the outdoors whilst enabling them to develop their self-esteem, emotional literacy and outdoor experiences. Forest School sessions are heavily child-led whereby the children can direct their own learning and exploration and make progress based on their own self-development. The philosophy of Forest School is to encourage and inspire students through positive experiences, by engaging them in motivating, achievable tasks and activities, within a woodland environment. Forest School sessions are inclusive and are designed to be accessible by all children, regardless of background or ability.

IMPLEMENTATION

All year groups have accessed a series of Forest School session sessions. For this academic year, Years 1, 2 and 4 will have one term of Forest School. Year 6 will have some sessions during the Summer Term to focus on previously taught skills, as they begin their transition to secondary school. EYFS will access some sessions in the Forest School area to allow them to explore the natural environment. Forest School will take place whatever the weather, with the exception of high winds and storms, therefore suitable clothing is insisted on, to ensure the safety of the children. Sessions are planned to include a mixture of both adult led and child initiated activities. Adult led tasks may involve the teaching of Forest School skills such as tool use, den building, fire lighting and cooking. Child led activities can support personal, social and emotional development and often develop understanding of resilience and physical development. Sessions are planned to include a mixture of both adult led and child initiated activities.

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IMPACT

Forest School at Kings Road promotes resilience, curiosity and independence while allowing children to connect to the natural world. Through making independent choices and initiating their own learning, children are supported in risk-taking and self-awareness in a stimulating, non-judgmental and nurturing environment. Children will develop a sense of belonging to their surroundings, as well as to those around them, encouraging them to support one another. As confidence and self-esteem grow, learners develop socially, emotionally, intellectually, physically and spiritually. Time spent in the outdoor environment will encourage confidence and resilience, children will be able to assess and manage their own risks, and experience the feeling of reward and success. Forest School encourages problem solving, logical thinking and self-reflection, allowing pupils to see that mistakes aren't failure; they are part of learning. Children are encouraged to take part in caring for the environment and keeping the site safe for themselves and the wildlife that inhabits it. Children have the opportunity to be awed by nature and the changing seasons while deepening their knowledge of the environment, the flora and fauna and how they can protect it.