

## The Outdoor Classroom – Our Forest School Rational

The ethos of our outdoor classroom is based on the principles of forest schools. We aim to allow pupils to instigate, investigate, test and be curious about the world around them, allowing for all pupils to participate and succeed within the activities.

We believe in children's need to play, and the need to access and experience the outdoors. Pupils should be exposed to controlled risk and the reality of the natural world. Pupils should experience a healthy range of emotions, through all the challenges of social interaction, to build a resilience that will enable continued and creative engagement with their potential, their peers and their environment.

Children engage, in motivating and achievable tasks and activities throughout the year and in almost all weathers. Children will work with tools, play, learn boundaries of behaviour, both physical and social, grow in confidence, self-esteem and motivation whilst developing an understanding of the natural world.

Our lessons always have aims and objectives based on engagement, behaviour, social interaction and enjoyment and encourage independent

learning and an enjoyment for the outside environment.



### Organisation of Subject and delivery

Forest School is run every week for the whole of Primary and visiting school pupils. Currently it takes place on a Monday afternoon from 1.20 pm. Forest School is organised and run by our Forest School Leader Karen Price. She plans tasks and oversees all equipment and activities. Karen Price is a Level 3 Forest School Leader, and uses her knowledge to train staff and ensure all tasks are safe and carried out appropriately. During these afternoons all staff are fully involved in the activities and are either running activities, or supporting pupils who need more 1 to 1 help.



### Forest School Curriculum Content:

Throughout the year we plan to explore our environment and recognise the different seasons and the changes they bring. Within the different seasons different activities will be organised to support the pupils learning and enjoyment of the outside. Through these tasks we aim to develop independent learners, who have the confidence to try new ideas and explore their own interests.

Activities may include:

- Understanding boundaries
- Tool use
- Studying wildlife
- Participating in group and team games
- Sensory activities – finding objects through colour, texture, size and smell
- Shelter building
- Tracking games

- Fire lighting
- Cooking on an open fire
- Using a Kelly kettle
- Art and sculpture work
- Patterns
- Woodland and traditional craft – jewellery
- Stories and drama
- Physical movement activities, eg. climbing, digging and dancing



Forest school does mean Forest school FOR ALL. We do stock extra clothes for all weathers but ask that parents and pupils think about the usefulness of their clothing for outdoor activities, and to be aware they may well come home with muddy and wet clothes. We encourage a level of risk-taking, always under close adult supervision, and actively develop friendships and collaboration between all pupils and staff. Forest school activities are always designed to produce success and enjoyment, even when this appears to be of a transitory nature. The forest environment is an environment where

pupils can create and produce memories which will last for many years. Children with medical needs or disabilities will be helped so that they can take part fully in each session and those pupils with challenging behaviour will be risk assessed and may need to have one to one supervision, but their entitlement to participate in the forest school activities remains the same.

### Learning Opportunities

Pupils are constantly encouraged to visit parks, farms and other outdoor areas with their families. We encourage participation in outdoor activities, where pupils are given time to enjoy being with their families. Any evidence of these activities is shared in morning discussions and assembly.

### Safety and First Aid at Greys Forest School:

We carry out risk assessments on all areas of the school and the equipment/ resources we use as well as the staff and children who use them. Bedford Borough guidelines are followed to ensure that the learning environment is safe for children and staff to use.

First Aid is available from the Forest School leader **Karen Price**. All first aid administrated will be logged in the first aid

book. Any serious or violent injury will be recorded in the incident book and an injury report completed. For any further information please see our Forest school handbook, where you will also find our policy and procedures for school insurance, health and safety, safeguarding, behaviour management, absconding pupils, accidents, transporting pupils, medication, smoking, drug education and drug related incidents, complaints and safer working practice for the protection of children and staff in the education settings.



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Primary Provision

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