



Forest School at FVA




Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider

Introduction

The purpose of this information booklet is to give you some detailed information about Forest School sessions at FVA.

All children will have the opportunity to attend Forest School during their time at FVA. Children in Reception, have two Forest School sessions a week. On a Friday other year groups rotate termly for their Forest School session.

In addition to this information booklet, we have a specific FVA Forest School handbook which contains all of the detailed policies and procedures. This is also available on our website.



Forest School Ethos

Forest School is a child-centred inspirational learning process, that offers opportunities for holistic growth through regular sessions. It believes in the right for children to play, explore and take risks. Forest School helps and facilitates more knowledge-gathering, developing socially, emotionally, spiritually, physically and intellectually.

Being in the Forest School environment, inspires a deep and meaningful connection with the outside world and encourages children to solve real world issues, building self-esteem and resilience.

(Forest School Association)



How can Forest School help my child's development?

Research has proven that learning that takes place in the outdoors, is much more powerful and memorable as all the senses are involved. Forest Schools helps children to develop through a child led approach and teaches them how to assess risks for themselves.



Forest School Principles

1. Forest School is a long term process of frequent and regular sessions. Planning, observations, adaptations and reviewing are all integral parts of the Forest School process.
2. It takes place in a woodland or natural environment. We have a wonderful forest area within our grounds.
3. We aim to foster resilient, confident, independent and creative learners.
4. We will offer learners the opportunity to take supported risks appropriate to the environment and themselves.
5. It will be managed by a Forest School leader
6. We will use a range of learner centred approaches to create a community for development and learning.



Where will we be going?

As a school, we are fortunate to have a wonderful area we can use for Forest School. This is located at the back of the field and is a large learning space.



Staffing and Ratios

All year groups participate in Forest School sessions each academic year.

Within our school we have two Forest School Leaders:

- Miss Pring (Reception class teacher)
- Miss Bullock (Higher Level Teaching Assistant)

Both Forest School leaders hold Paediatric First Aid qualifications.



What the children need to bring

- Wellington boots
- Gloves
- Hat
- Scarves
- Extra socks
- Extra layers
- Waterproof coat



Please remember to name all belongings



Rules and Routines

In order to stay safe and have fun, there are some rules for attending Forest School:

- Look after our Forest School
- Do not pick anything growing
- Do not put your fingers or anything in your mouth
- Stay within the boundary rope, we don't go over it, we don't go under it

No Pick! No Lick! Stop at the boundary!



What will the children be doing?

Examples of the types of structured activities the children will do are:

- Learning about lashing and knots
- Shelter building
- Natural weaving
- Natural art
- Story telling
- Safe tool use
- Tree recognition
- Animal tracks
- Natural games
- Fire lighting
- Crafts
- Cooking



Use of Tools

Throughout their Forest School journey, children will have the opportunity to use a range of tools.

- Bow saw
- Potato peeler/pen knife
- Bill hook
- Electric drill



Cooking and Eating

The following principles will always be followed:

- Everyone should wash their hands before handling food and drink
- All foods are stored in airtight containers
- Only clean equipment is used
- All staff are aware, and have a copy, of any special dietary needs of children.



Environmental considerations

One of the principles of Forest School is to promote environmental awareness. The children are taught about respect and responsibility for the world around them. Both the children and adults are encouraged to respect their environment and to be aware of conservation issues of the woodland around them.

We will also promote respect for the wildlife. We will encourage children not to pick flowers/plants/trees, due to safety and environmental considerations.

Where possible, and if appropriate, reclaimed, recycled and sustainable resources will be used to maintain and develop our Forest School site.



Finally...

Your child will have amazing adventures, with their friends, making long lasting forestry childhood memories!

