



Forest School Progression of Skills

Intent:

- To encourage a sense of adventure and use a range of outdoor skills e.g. safe tool use, first aid and den-building, to produce confident, independent, resilient individuals, who are able to assess risk, work together as a team and have the determination to persevere with challenges.
- To develop the social skills and ability of individuals to respect, appreciate and value each other's differences, make positive behaviour choices and strive to be their best in everything they do, through a balance of support and challenge in their outdoor learning.
- To foster a life-long love of the natural world through enjoyment, play, discovery and experimentation, which will encourage a positive sense of physical and mental health and wellbeing through a connection with nature.
- To develop an enduring knowledge and understanding of the natural world and the plants and animals which inhabit it, including the relationships between them e.g. food chains, and with their environment.
- Through practical engagement with a range of skills from across the curriculum such as: geographical fieldwork e.g. orienteering and mapwork; scientific observation, discussion and explanation; building fires and outdoor cooking; individuals will make links in their learning and be able to apply their skills in a variety of situations now and in the future.

Fire lighting and outdoor cooking	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
	Collect sticks to be added to a fire by an adult.	Collect sticks for use on a fire and sort by size.	Be safe around a fire in a small group with an adult.	Learn about and understand the fire triangle.	Use flint and steel to light cotton wool and use to safely light a fire.	Safely light a rocket stove in a group.	Light a rocket stove and use it safely to cook jacket potatoes in a group.
	Collect sticks for use on a fire and sort by size.	Watch an adult light the fire by starting with the smaller sticks and increasing size	Cook damper bread on a stick over the fire.	Use flint and steel to create spark to light a piece of cotton wool.	Revisit the Fire Triangle.	Consider the fire triangle when lighting and putting out the fire.	
	Learn how to be safe around				Cook scotch pancakes in	Cook pizzas with French	

	a fire in a small, adult supported group.	to keep the fire going. Be able to stay safe around a fire in a small group with an adult. Cook a marshmallow over a fire pit on a skewer.		Cook roasted vegetables over the fire.	groups over a Rocket Stove.	Bread/Flour Tortillas, with the support of an adult.	
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Knives and Tools	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
	Learn how to use a potato peeler by practising on a carrot. Use kitchen tools in the mud area.	Whittle a vegetable character using a knife or peeler.	Use a hand drill/palm drill to drill a hole in a wooden disk and decorate it. Use a bow saw to cut a wooden disk, with support.	Use a knife safely to whittle a point on a stick. Use a bow saw to cut a couple of wooden disks of different sizes, with support.	Use a bow saw to cut the wood needed from a larger piece/branch. Decorate using natural dyes e.g. blackberries, grass.	Use a knife to make a wooden tool, e.g. spoon, tent peg, butter knife. Continue to use the bow saw to cut the wood needed from a larger piece/branch. With support, use the bill hooks to make a mallet.	Independently use the bill hooks to make a mallet. Use loppers or secateurs where needed, with supervision. Make a decoration or other object using natural materials. E.g. a star

Knots and lashings	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
	Tie a granny knot.	Tie a reef knot.	Tie a lanyard Hitch/Larks Head Hitch to fasten a cord to a wooden disc.	Use a Clove Hitch and lashing to tie poles together when building a den.	Tie a Round Turn and Two Half Hitches.	Tie different knots for different purposes.	Choose the most appropriate knot for a purpose. Teach another child to tie a knot.

Den building	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
	Work in groups to build a home for a book character, using materials found outside. Talk about what they feel the animal needs, as they build.	Use appropriate materials found outside to make a nest for a bird. Explain why they have chosen the materials e.g. it is soft etc.	Make a mini bug hotel for minibeast and hang up in a suitable location in the school grounds. Start to talk about shelter, food, water and warmth as conditions for survival.	Use tarpaulins and simple lashing to construct a den, with adult support where needed. Know the conditions needed for survival.	Build an effective shelter or den, in a team. Revisit conditions for survival.	Build a den for a specific purpose, using appropriate materials and working as a team. Consider conditions for survival.	Design and build varying sized shelters for a purpose, using set equipment. Use teamwork and problem-solving skills and evaluate what they have done.

Orienteering skills	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
	Look around them and be able to say what they see in different	Follow a simple shape trail from a map, using teamwork and	Use simple compass directions and locational language.	Know the eight points of the compass and follow a simple orienteering	Give/follow verbal and non-verbal instructions to create and follow trails,	Use the 8 points of the compass, 4 figure grid references	Use a compass effectively. Set, read symbols and follow a map and/ bearing.

	directions when outside.	problem-solving skills. Begin to use simple compass directions and locational language.	To follow blindfold trails using teamwork skills.	trail to understand a message.	solo and in pairs/groups. To understand what a map is and to develop the skills of map reading and orientation.	and Ordnance Survey Maps.	Be confident using a map and 8 point compass together.
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First aid skills	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
	All Pupils will be taught how to make an emergency call and how to stay safe when helping others.			All Pupils will be taught: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How to make a clear and efficient call to the emergency services. ○ How to stay safe when helping others. ○ How to deal with a burn. 			
	Know that they need to tell an adult if they are unwell or hurt.	Know to tell an adult if they or someone else is unwell or hurt.	Know how to be kind, keep calm and to look after others, whether they are hurt or feeling sad.	Know how to deal with bites and stings.	Know what to do if someone has cut themselves.	Be able to put someone into the recovery position.	