

Forest school can have a significant impact on children's self esteem and emotional intelligence, giving children a sense of confidence and pride that they do not always experience in the classroom.

Forest school activities encourage children to work together and to respect each other, acknowledging their strengths and weaknesses.

Everyone is recognised as being individual and unique, learning at different rates and in different ways.

Empathy and self awareness are given space to develop through the programme of learning, skills, play and cooperation.



These skills and qualities can be developed through our forest school programmes and the learning gained will support the development of the whole child - not just in the academic areas, but in social and emotional health too.



Forest school leaders

Mrs S. Hambly

with

Mrs J Bell



Forest School at Two Gates Community Primary School



Love children, love learning.

Forest School at Two Gates

At Two Gates Community Primary school we are committed to providing our children with a wide range of experiences throughout their primary years in school.

We encourage them to take part and to always do their best in activities in and out of the classroom.



Forest school is a part of the curriculum for all children at different times and seasons throughout their time in school. Children will spend six weeks at a time in a programme of activities in our woodland, and, during their time at Two Gates, will access the woodland site in different seasons and weather conditions.



Why Forest school?

Forest School provides children with an opportunity to learn in a different way. They will

- explore the woodland area,
- learn about the plants and animals that live there,
- use tools to manage the site,
- make objects and artwork from natural materials.
- learn about risks and how to assess and manage them safely,
- work with others to use and respect the outdoor environment.
- Make links to other areas of learning eg. maths, science and literacy



In addition to the direct teaching in the site, the children will develop skills to work together co-operatively, and share ideas. The success of many of the activities will depend on the children taking turns to help each other, taking different roles and communicating needs and ideas. The different seasons will encourage skills of observation, listening, imagination and curiosity as new things are discovered in the natural cycle.

Health and well being are naturally a crucial element of all forest school programmes. The connection with the natural world, its cycles of seasons and growth, the sense of belonging to the woodland whilst still in school, and the opportunity to share food and drink, sometimes cooking our own snacks, in the woodland environment are experiences which enrich our children.



In forest school, there are plenty of opportunities for children to achieve new skills and learn new behaviours as they engage in a variety of activities. Skills are broken down into small steps so that all children succeed in making something using tools, or cooking over the fire, joining in a story session, or exploring in a group.



Rules are important in forest school and children are made aware of the need to follow them for their own and the group's safety and in order to respect the natural woodland.