



FOREST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

What is Forest School?

Forest School is a child-centred inspirational learning process that offers opportunities for holistic growth through regular sessions. Forest School supports play, exploration and supported risk taking. It develops confidence and self-esteem through learner inspired, hands-on experiences in a natural setting.

What is a Holistic Approach in Forest School?

Children having the space and freedom to be themselves and being in charge of their own learning. Having fun, taking risks, solving problems, learning new skills and achieving their own goals. Forest School is child led, they are in charge and sessions are planned and developed around their interests, abilities, and choices.

Heronsgate Forest School at Heronsgate

Fire Circle area



Tree house area



Craft area



Tools area



Mud kitchen area



Relaxing area





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Spring 2 term at Forest School

Last half of term at Forest School Years 3 and 4 came up to Forest School in regular whole classes sessions. There were also some small group sessions up at Forest School.

All the children enjoyed using the resources up at Forest School. Such as climbing in the tree house, building dens, arts and crafts, the 'relaxing area' and playing with the tyres. The mud kitchen and the toy tractors were also popular.

Whole class sessions

Week 1 – St Davids day

The children had fun making daffodils for St Davids day.

They decorated a daffodil template and then used a hammer to attach it to a stick with a nail and stuck a button on top.

Some children enjoyed hammering sticks together to make their initials instead.



Week 2 – World Book Day

The children enjoyed going on a bear hunt this week or making stick men. There were also a few mystery bears to find in school this week on World book day



Week 3 – Science week – Making potions, Comic relief activities and St Patrick's day activities

The children absolutely loved making potions, so much so, that we now have a potion making station, they could not make them fast enough. They also had the opportunity to make comic relief masks or to decorate a shamrock.



Week 4 – Hot Chocolate and Marshmallows and Easter activities

The children all enjoyed hot chocolate and marshmallows as an end of term treat. They also had the opportunity to go on an Easter Egg word hunt which many of them enjoyed. They could also decorate Easter eggs, chicks and bunnies or make Easter bunny masks.





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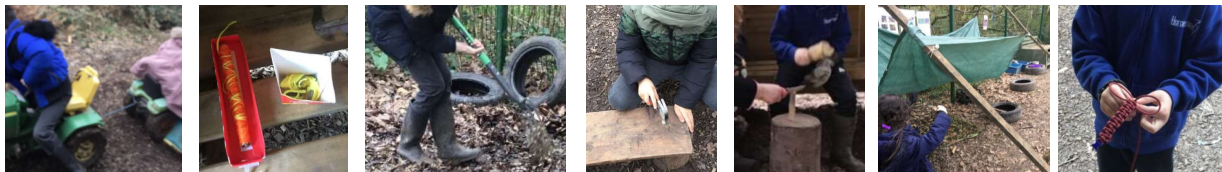
Small group sessions

In these sessions we followed the children's interests, some enjoyed arts and crafts, making paracord bracelets or masks, den building, potion making.

Some children enjoyed working with tools and fire. They enjoyed cooking s'mores or splitting wood or hammering nails into wood. There was also a spot of gardening some children planted some plants and helped cut back parts of the Willow dome.

Some highlights from these sessions –

We had tractor tug of war, stick hot dogs and chips, wool spaghetti in a milk bottle base bowl, planting plants in Forest School, hot chocolate and s'mores.



Clothing at Forest School

As I am sure you are aware it has been particularly muddy last term. If at all possible, please can you make sure your children come to Forest School with appropriate clothing, thank you –

Suggested clothing for staff and children (all weathers)

Forest School sessions will take place in all weathers unless deemed unsafe by the Forest School Leader.

'There is no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing'

Suitable clothing is essential for all to be able to participate. In their kits children should have:

- Long sleeved T-shirt.
- Trousers, to reduce the risk of bites, stings and scratches.
- Waterproof over trousers and jacket.
- Long socks, wellies, warm boots or old trainers (in very hot dry weather).
- During the summer, a sunhat and sunscreen should be supplied.
- During the colder months, extra layers such as a fleece, leggings, tights, hats and gloves etc. are required.
- Please bring clothes in a named bag which should be taken home each week to be washed.



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Forest School donations

If you have anything at home you no longer need that you think may be useful for Forest School, please get in touch. We are always keen for new resources to use with the children. The sorts of things we need are –

- Craft items – Such as - Wool, string, ribbon, buttons, paint pens, felt tips, craft feathers, pipe cleaners, pompoms.
- Rope for swings.
- Wood – off cuts of wood, tree branches, sticks, old pallets, round logs, fir/pine cones.
- Unwanted garden tools, such as spades, trowels, gardening forks.
- Old drain pipe for water channels.
- Tools – Nails, hammers, mallets.
- Old wooden garden benches.
- Pots and pans, cake baking trays.
- Wooden spoons, old cutlery, plastic jugs or plastic measuring cylinders.
- Old toy swing seats.
- Food colouring for potions (out of date is fine as its not for consumption).
- Cardboard.

Or anything you think may be useful for Forest School. Any donations would be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks,
Mrs Wilkes
Interim Forest School Leader

Forest School – Summer 1 term –

The next half of term the following classes will be attending Forest School on the following days -

Monday - Toucans

Tuesday - Kingfishers

Wednesday - Penguins

There will be additional small groups going up to Forest School during the week, a letter of confirmation of if and when your child will be in a group will be sent home with your child.