

Forest School LTP



Whittington CE
Primary School

Through Forest School, pupils will:

- Develop confidence, resilience and independence
- Demonstrate safe and responsible risk-taking
- Show respect and care for the environment
- Work collaboratively and communicate effectively
- Transfer skills into wider learning and life experiences

Pupils leave Whittington Primary School as:

Confident, capable and environmentally aware individuals, with the skills and mindset to thrive beyond school.

KEY STAGE 1

Year	Autumn	Spring	Summer	End of Year Expectations
EYFS	<p>Exploring the Environment Children are introduced to the Forest School environment through sensory exploration and play. Activities include mud kitchen play, collecting natural materials and establishing simple routines.</p>	<p>Introducing Tools (1:1 Support) Children begin using real tools with close adult supervision. Activities include hammering, peeling bark and simple drilling.</p> <p>Seasonal Exploration Children explore winter changes in the environment, including bird feeding and observing seasonal differences.</p>	<p>Making & Creating Children use natural materials for creative activities such as clay modelling, natural art and simple woodwork.</p> <p>Minibeasts & Habitats Children explore habitats through bug hunting, sorting and observing living things.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses a range of tools (drill, saw, peeler, shears, hammer) with 1:1 adult support • Understands simple safety rules • No formal knot work
1	<p>Tool Confidence Children develop confidence using tools with increasing independence and begin simple making tasks.</p>	<p>Knots Introduction Children learn to tie a simple knot and begin applying this in small tasks such as mini shelters.</p>	<p>Building & Teamwork Children work collaboratively to build simple dens and complete group challenges.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses tools with increasing independence and close supervision

	<p>Fire Awareness Children are introduced to fire safety and take part in simple cooking activities with support.</p>	<p>Nature & Environment Children take part in pond dipping, bug hunting and observing seasonal changes.</p>	<p>Independence Children begin selecting tools and activities independently and applying their skills with less support.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follows safety routines with minimal reminders • ☐ Can tie a simple knot (e.g. overhand)
2	<p>Tool Set-Up & Routines Children learn to set up and manage tool stations independently, working within clear safety boundaries.</p> <p>Fire Skills Children support fire lighting and take a more active role in cooking and fire preparation.</p>	<p>Knots Mastery Children learn and practise three key knots: overhand knot, reef knot and clove hitch.</p> <p>Shelter Building Children apply knot skills to build shelters and develop teamwork.</p>	<p>Environmental Work Children engage in activities such as litter picking and caring for natural habitats.</p> <p>Independence Children take increasing responsibility, leading simple tasks and managing their own activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can set up and use tools independently (with supervision) • Demonstrates responsibility for safe working • Can tie and use three knots: Overhand knot, Reef knot & Clove hitch

KEY STAGE 2

Year	Autumn	Spring	Summer	End of Year Expectations
3	<p>Introduction to Forest School Children are introduced to key Forest School skills including fire lighting, tool use and campfire cooking.</p> <p>Nature Exploration Children take part in pond dipping, bug hunting and environmental exploration.</p>	<p>Skill Development Children develop tool skills further, including whittling using a peeler and simple woodworking.</p> <p>Shelter Building Children are introduced to knots and apply these to den building activities.</p>	<p>Independence Children begin working more independently in groups and take part in structured challenges.</p> <p>Application Children apply their learning by preparing and leading small activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses a range of basic tools confidently (e.g. bow saw, drill, peeler) • Begins to work more independently within boundaries • ☐ Can tie a granny knot

<p>4</p>	<p>Fire & Shelter Skills Children develop their understanding of fire building (e.g. tipi fires) and shelter construction.</p> <p>Tool Development Children are introduced to more advanced tools, including knives for whittling, and develop woodworking skills.</p>	<p>Fire Management Children learn to manage different types of fires, including upside-down fires, and apply cooking skills.</p> <p>Environmental Awareness Children take part in activities such as bird surveys and environmental observation.</p>	<p>Skill Development Children further develop physical skills such as tree climbing and foraging.</p> <p>Independence Children begin to take ownership of sessions and demonstrate independence in activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses a wider range of tools with control (e.g. loppers, secateurs, drill) • Works safely and purposefully • Can tie and apply a reef knot
<p>5</p>	<p>Fire Mastery Children develop advanced fire skills, including use of the Kelly Kettle and fire management.</p> <p>Conservation Children take part in environmental work such as tree care.</p>	<p>Tool Mastery Children develop confidence using a full range of tools including sawing, splitting and whittling.</p> <p>Environmental Study Children engage in surveys such as pond dipping and biodiversity studies.</p>	<p>Application Children apply their skills through cooking, crafting and independent activities.</p> <p>Leadership Children begin preparing and leading elements of sessions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selects and uses tools independently, including introduction to knives • Demonstrates safe use of higher-risk tools • Can tie and use: Reef knot, timber hitch
<p>6</p>	<p>Advanced Fire Skills Children learn to manage a range of fires independently for different purposes.</p> <p>Independence Children apply skills in cooking, shelter building and tool use with minimal supervision.</p>	<p>Tool Mastery Children undertake independent projects using a range of tools.</p> <p>Environmental Leadership Children take part in conservation work and support wider environmental initiatives.</p>	<p>Leadership Children lead sessions, support younger pupils and demonstrate mastery of Forest School skills.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses the full range of tools independently and safely, including knives and splitting tools • Can support and guide others in safe tool use • Can confidently use: Reef knot, Timber hitch, Additional knots as needed

Whole School Progression

Tools

- EYFS: 1:1 supported
- KS1: Independent setup
- LKS2: Applying skills
- UKS2: Mastery

Knots

- Y1: Intro
- Y2: 3 knots secure
- KS2: Apply in real contexts

Fire

- EYFS: Observe
- KS1: Support cooking
- LKS2: Build & light
- UKS2: Manage independently