

Forest School LTP

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.



**Whittington CE
Primary School**

KEY STAGE 1

Year	Autumn	Spring	Summer	End of Year Expectations
EYFS	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.	Introducing Tools (1:1 Support) Children begin using real tools with close adult supervision. Activities include hammering, peeling bark and simple drilling. Seasonal Exploration Children explore winter changes in the environment, including bird feeding and observing seasonal differences.	Making & Creating Children use natural materials for creative activities such as clay modelling, natural art and simple woodwork. Minibeasts & Habitats Children explore habitats through bug hunting, sorting and observing living things.	- Uses a range of tools (drill, saw, peeler, shears, hammer) with 1:1 adult support - Understands simple safety rules - No formal knot work
1/2	Tool Confidence Children develop confidence using tools with increasing independence and begin simple making tasks.	Knots Introduction Children learn to tie a simple knot and begin applying this in small tasks such as mini shelters.	Building & Teamwork Children work collaboratively to build simple dens and complete group challenges.	Uses tools with increasing independence and close supervision

	Fire Awareness Children are introduced to fire safety and take part in simple cooking activities with support.	Nature & Environment Children take part in pond dipping, bug hunting and observing seasonal changes.	Independence Children begin selecting tools and activities independently and applying their skills with less support.	- Follows safety routines with minimal reminders - Can tie a simple knot (e.g. overhand)
	Tool Set-Up & Routines Children learn to set up and manage tool stations independently, working within clear safety boundaries.	Knots Mastery Children learn and practise three key knots: overhand knot, reef knot and clove hitch.	Environmental Work Children engage in activities such as litter picking and caring for natural habitats.	- 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
	Fire Skills Children support fire lighting and take a more active role in cooking and fire preparation.	Shelter Building Children apply knot skills to build shelters and develop teamwork.	Independence Children take increasing responsibility, leading simple tasks and managing their own activities.	

KEY STAGE 2

Year	Autumn	Spring	Summer	End of Year Expectations
3/4	Introduction to Forest School Children are introduced to key Forest School skills including fire lighting, tool use and campfire cooking.	Skill Development Children develop tool skills further, including whittling using a peeler and simple woodworking.	Independence Children begin working more independently in groups and take part in structured challenges.	- 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
	Nature Exploration Children take part in pond dipping, bug hunting and environmental exploration.	Shelter Building Children are introduced to knots and apply these to den building activities.	Application Children apply their learning by preparing and leading small activities.	Uses a wider range of tools with control (e.g.
		Fire Management Children learn to manage different		

	Fire & Shelter Skills Children develop their understanding of fire building (e.g. tipi fires) and shelter construction. Tool Development Children are introduced to more advanced tools, including knives for whittling, and develop woodworking skills.	types of fires, including upside-down fires, and apply cooking skills. Environmental Awareness Children take part in activities such as bird surveys and environmental observation.	Skill Development Children further develop physical skills such as tree climbing and foraging. Independence Children begin to take ownership of sessions and demonstrate independence in activities.	loppers, secateurs, drill) • Works safely and purposefully • Can tie and apply a reef knot
5/6	Fire Mastery Children develop advanced fire skills, including use of the Kelly Kettle and fire management. Conservation Children take part in environmental work such as tree care. Advanced Fire Skills Children learn to manage a range of fires independently for different purposes. Independence Children apply skills in cooking, shelter building and tool use with minimal supervision.	Tool Mastery Children develop confidence using a full range of tools including sawing, splitting and whittling. Environmental Study Children engage in surveys such as pond dipping and biodiversity studies. Tool Mastery Children undertake independent projects using a range of tools. Environmental Leadership Children take part in conservation work and support wider environmental initiatives.	Application Children apply their skills through cooking, crafting and independent activities. Leadership Children begin preparing and leading elements of sessions. Leadership Children lead sessions, support younger pupils and demonstrate mastery of Forest School skills.	• Selects and uses tools independently, including introduction to knives • Demonstrates safe use of higher-risk tools • Can tie and use: Reef knot, timber hitch • 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

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