



Waterbeach Community Primary School

Curriculum Capture for Year EYFS

Forest School



Key Knowledge

Across the year children will learn to safely use and explore our Forest. They will learn a variety of skills and techniques within the outdoor environment as well as finding out about and understanding some important processes and changes in the natural world around them. They will learn about similarities and differences between the natural world around them and contrasting environments as well as learning about animals in their natural environments and seasonal changes.

How do you stay safe in the forest?

At the forest we have three main rules to keep us safe.

1. We look after the forest ... how? (e.g. not picking the leaves etc)
2. We look after ourselves ... how? (e.g. hands not in mouths, not crossing the tape to the pond, stay away from the yew tree etc)
3. We look after each other ... how? (e.g. no sticks longer than our arms if so carry with a friend)

When we are needed back at base camp, we will hear an adults shout, "1, 2, 3 where are you?" We will respond by saying, "1, 2, 3 we are here!" and return to base camp promptly.

How do you climb trees safely?

It is important for you to be able to assess the risk of tree climbing independently. There are three main rules to do this and then climb trees safely:

1. Check the tree and its branches are strong enough
2. Ensure you have 3 points of contact with the tree at all times
3. Only go as high as you feel safe and know you can get back down by yourself
4. Make sure an adult knows you are climbing a tree and can see you climbing



What are the four seasons?

Each year is split into 4 seasons. These are winter, spring, summer and autumn. We look for changes in our forest over the year.

- Winter is the coldest season. It happens in the months December to March. Days are short and nights are long. Many trees survive by losing their leaves. Some animals enter a deep sleep called hibernation.
- Spring is from March. During spring, trees start growing again and sprout new leaves. Some trees produce flowers known as blossom. Other plants such as tulips and bluebells flower too. Many animals come out of hibernation.
- Summer is the hottest season of the year. The days are longer. There are plenty of leaves on the trees and lots of plants are in flower and many produce fruits. Summer is from June to September.
- Autumn is when days get shorter and temperatures start to drop and many animals grow thicker fur to prepare for this. Many deciduous trees lose their leaves to prepare for winter. Autumn is from September to December.

How do you light a fire safely?

To light a fire you will need:

- A fire pit bowl
- Small/medium dry sticks and twigs
- Cottonwool and Vaseline (used as an accelerant)
- A flint to make a spark
- Water to put out the fire when finished

We have rules to follow when lighting a fire to keep everyone safe. They are:

1. Stay out of the fire circle unless invited by an adult
2. Don't throw anything into the fire
3. Tie your hair back when in the fire circle
4. When toasting over the fire, kneel down for a sturdy stance

And we have procedures in case of an emergency:

- Stop, drop and roll if you are ever caught by the fire
- We have a bucket of water by the fire circle when we light a fire
- We have a fire extinguisher in the box next to the fire circle.

What makes a good den?

A good den should have:

- A waterproof cover
- Somewhere to sit
- Space for you and your friends to get in
- Secure so that it doesn't blow away in the wind



What is whittling?

Whittling is carving wood to remove pieces. To whittle safely using a vegetable peeler you must:

- Sit with 1 metre distance between each person
- Look to see who is moving around you
- Hold potato peeler or knife in your dominant hand
- Hold stick away from your body
- Hold stick at the bottom, not the top.
- Push the peeler or knife into the stick and away from your body



How do you pond dip safely?

- You must only visit the pond area when doing so with an adult
- When at the pond edge, you must kneel down
- An adult will help you to hold the heavy nets
- Place the contents of the net into a bucket so you can see what you have caught.



What creatures might you find in a forest?

- In the forest you may find a variety of minibeasts such as worms, woodlice, spiders, centipedes and ladybirds. You may also find some pond wildlife such as tadpoles, frogs, newts, pond skaters and water snails. If you look up you will see birds in the trees and the occasional squirrel.

Key Skills

assessing own risk	following instructions	working as a team
--------------------	------------------------	-------------------

Key Vocabulary

forest	risk	pondlife	accelerant
seasons	whittling	minbeast	den
wildlife	peeler	firepit	points of contact
safety	pond	flint	