



FOREST SCHOOL AUTUMN TERM CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

During the Autumn term the children's main learning focus will be...

Year 1

The season of Autumn and the changes in the weather will have an overriding influence on the activities that Y1 will participate during this term. Y1 will explore what each part of a tree does and why trees have an important role in nature. As part of a tree study, Y1 will be introduced to two different deciduous trees where they will compare the shape of leaves and observe changes over time. To further their understanding, Y1 will discover why some animals have to hibernate and why fungi like to inhabit the forest floor. Y1 will be also introduced to shelter building and to test it for weather conditions.

Year 4

This term Y4 will be identifying a variety of living things in and around the forest and focus on how different animals/plants have adapted to their environment. They will also look at how environments can change i.e. human impact and deforestation and how this can pose dangers to living things. In addition, Y4 will learn how to prepare and light a fire with a fire steel and collect, grade and safely add sticks to a fire in a safe manner. To improve their woodcraft skills they will split greenwood for fire wood using billhooks and craft a tent peg. To enhance their rope skills, Y4 will learn how to square lash two sticks together.

Year 2

This term Y2 will learn how to identify and name a variety of trees and plants in a woodland habitat as well as gain an understanding about their basic needs. To help with this, Y2 will take part in a tree study of two trees in order to compare and record changes overtime. To further their practical life skills, Y2 will be introduced to tying simple knots, make temporary shelters to protect them from all weathers and to use a palm drill /conker clamp. During the Autumn term, Y2 will also be introduced to the fire circle etiquette where they observe how to light a fire safely in order to cook items on the fire as well as make a hot drink.

Year 5

This term Y5 will try to improve on their close observation skills with regards to plant identification and to take notice of tiny details like leaf shape, plant structure and types of flower. Y5 will also learn to create a tipi fire, and lay and maintain a fire for a period of time in order to cook outdoors. To develop their survival skills, Y5 will extend their knot and lashing skills as well as assembling various simple shelters to protect them from all weathers. In addition, Y5 will also be introduced to different woodcraft skills with different tools which they will learn to use in a safe manner.

Year 3

This term Y3 will improve on their tree identification knowledge by focusing on two different trees that they can monitor and record changes throughout this academic year. This will help Y3 to appreciate and understand the life cycle of a plant and the requirements each plant needs in order to develop and grow. In addition Y3 will learn how to search and forage seeds and fruits as well as learn how to preserve foods. As part of developing and improving their bush skills Y3 will whittle a stick to a point, create a bow, learn the correct knots to put up a tarp shelter and be introduced to lighting fires with a fire steel.

Year 6

This term Y6 will look at two trees as part of an annual tree study and monitor/record the changes that have seasonally occurred. In addition Y6 will have the responsibility for maintaining the growing of vegetables in our raised beds which will develop their life skills and increase environmental awareness. As part of their survival expertise, Y6 will learn how to maintain a fire and be able to cook a simple dish as well as improve their knots and lashing skills and techniques in assembling various simple shelters. Furthermore, Y6 will develop their wood work skills when carving/whittling wood.

