

Oak View Forest School Parents Handbook



Clothing

Children are expected to come to school on the day that they have Forest School wearing their own clothes. However, this will need to be suitable clothing from the list below:

Cold weather

Long sleeved top/ jumper

Trousers/ jeans

Wellington boots or sturdy footwear (they will get muddy and wet)

Waterproof coat

Hat, scarf and gloves

More layers the better

Hot weather

T shirt or cool top

Trousers/ leggings (legs should always be covered to prevent injury)

Trainers/ boots (no sandals or thin soled shoes)

Cap and sun cream to be applied before school

Please be aware that children will be out in all-weather so dress appropriately

Additional info.

Children will always be accompanied to the Forest School with a fully qualified adult. Mrs Jones has passed a Forest School Leader level 3 Qualification and Miss Bray is currently working towards the completion of the same course. As part of this year long course they have also completed an outdoor first aid course and comply with all health and safety requirements.

“We are very proud of our Forest School Site and how it has evolved within the years it has been running.”

Planning sessions.

Lessons are planned depending on the theme that they are learning within their class that term.

For example:

A Year 5 class had the topic forces, we spent a term in Forest School investigating types of forces. The children were split into groups and through the weeks successfully built a beam bridge (which had to take the weight of an adult), an A frame structure with guide ropes, a free standing tower and finally a play session using rope swings.

A year 1 class had the topic dinosaurs, the children learnt the meanings of Herbivore, Carnivore and Omnivore. Within the lesson the children were asked to find food that the tree types of dinosaurs would eat. They were given observation pots and had to carefully collect bugs for the Carnivore and Omnivore. The Omnivore and Herbivore needed three types of plant.

We enjoy creating the planning for each class and take pride in our fun approach to learning.

Tools we may use.

During Forest School as your children become more experienced in the outdoor environment we may use tools these include:

Hammer- For building or leaf printing.

Loppers- Used with adult support to cut sticks for building and upkeep of trees.

Bow saw- Used with adult support and training, for cutting wood.

Flint and steel- Children will have adult support to produce a spark.

Towards the end of each term we will also have a camp fire, which only the adults will light and maintain. Children may be invited to approach the fire to roast marshmallows. (This will only take place with classes that follow all the safety rules.)

On site.

We currently have:

Fire Circle- Children sit a fair distance away from the fire pit on logs. This is also our meeting point where we talk about each lesson.

Creative area- This has a black board for children to use, Logs to sit on around a table and buckets filled with natural materials.

Pond- We are very pleased with how popular this area is with the children. We use this for pond dipping session and it contains many different creatures for us to investigate.

Mud kitchen- This is a great area for the children to play and create some marvelous mud pies. It is fully stocked with all they will need to cook up a storm.

Wood store- This is where the children collect the large branches they use to build dens.

Hide- We have a hide within the woods which is the perfect place to view the wildlife that live in our woods. It has nocturnal creature posters inside as we can't see them during the day.

Fairy and Elf village- In the far corner of the woods we have a "small world" play area for the children to play in.

Play house- At the back of our wood we have a newly built house made from recycled pallets and branches. This is a great imaginary play area.

Skills they will learn.

During our Forest School sessions, we introduce the children to many skills. These will either be taught by an adult or self-taught by the children themselves.

1. Build self-esteem & self-belief.
2. Improve social skills.
3. Assist in peer relationship building.
4. Assist language & communication skills.
5. Provide cross-curriculum learning opportunities.
6. Provide a more natural environment in an outdoor class.
 7. Promote independence.
 8. Promote team work.
 9. Enable the learning of new skills.
 10. Enhance fine motor skills.
11. Provide the connection between theory and "the real world".

Contact Us

If you have any questions concerning Forest School, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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