

Key Themes Across All Years:

- **Mindfulness & Nature Connection** 🌱 : Sensory awareness, quiet reflection
- **Seasonal & Weather Observations** ☁️ : Recording changes throughout the year
- **Risk-Taking & Independence** 🚀 : Learning to assess and manage risks
- **Eco-Awareness & Conservation** 🌍 : Sustainable practices, leave-no-trace

Summary: Learning Cycles
Reception & Year 1 2 Years *Exploration & Early Skills* (Building curiosity and confidence in nature)

Year 2 & Year 3 2 Years *Survival & Nature Connection* (Developing skills, knowledge, and problem-solving)

Year 4, 5 & 6 3 Years *Bushcraft, Leadership & Responsibility* (Mastery, independence, mentoring younger pupils)

	Reception & Year 1 Early Explorers		Year 2 & 3 Nature Navigators		Year 4, 5 & 6 Forest Guardians		
	A	B	A	B	A	B	C
Fire Skills	Observes fire safely, learns about fire circles, toasts marshmallows with support	Introduced to fire triangle (fuel, heat, oxygen), helps collect tinder/kindling	Collects tinder, kindling & fuel; observes fire lighting	Uses flint & steel with support, toasts simple foods	Understands fire triangle, collects & prepares fuel, intro to flint & steel	Builds & sustains small fires, learns fire-laying techniques	Maintains fire in different conditions, cooks full outdoor meals
Vocabulary	Fire, heat, flame, smoke, safety, ember		Flint, spark, ember, tinder, kindling		Ignite, tinder, combustion, ember management		
Tools	Introduced to peelers, learns safe handling	Uses peeler to strip bark, introduction to mallets	Introduced to loppers, safe hammering	Uses hand drills, saws (with support), knots for structures	Uses loppers, peeler & bow saw (supervised)	Uses mallets, drills, and hammers for construction	Whittles safely with a knife, carves simple tools
Vocabulary	Peeler, blade, handle, grip, hammer		Loppers, saw, hammer, drill, brace		Whittle, brace, chisel, notch, secure		
Den Building	Explores building with small branches & loose parts	Works with peers to build simple shelters using sticks & tarps	Builds stronger shelters with natural materials	Creates waterproof structures, intro to knots & lashings	Builds simple lean-to shelters using tarps and knots	Creates debris shelters & waterproof wind-resistant structures	Designs & builds functional group shelters
Vocabulary	Shelter, balance, tarp, strong, stable		Waterproof, secure, lash, tension, insulation		Tension, tripod, stability, reinforced		
Nature & Environment	Observes seasonal changes, basic plant & animal ID	Identifies key woodland plants, insects, and animal homes	Tracks simple wildlife signs, starts basic foraging	Compares woodland & meadow habitats, builds bug hotels	Tracks wildlife, forages for basic plants	Understands ecosystems & conservation, responsible foraging	Builds wildlife-friendly projects (birdhouses, bug hotels)
Vocabulary	Leaf, root, stem, nest, burrow, tracks		Habitat, ecosystem, foraging, pollination		Sustainability, ecosystem, regeneration, biodiversity		

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Outdoor Learning progression map

Creativity & Sensory	Uses natural materials for art, mud painting	Makes simple natural sculptures, weaving	Sound mapping, natural music	Nature storytelling & clay animal sculptures	Uses natural materials for art, storytelling spaces	Charcoal drawings, nature-based instruments	Designs outdoor installations, leads storytelling activities
Vocabulary	Texture, smooth, rough, damp, pattern		Rhythm, soundscape, pattern, pigment		Smudge, etching, folklore, totem		
Wellbeing & Teamwork	Engages in team activities, listens to others	Develops independence, problem-solving with friends	Leads small group activities, starts independent risk assessments	Engages in problem-solving tasks, resilience in outdoor play	Works collaboratively, understands outdoor resilience	Takes responsibility for fire & tool safety, mentors younger pupils	Leads group challenges, teaches younger children
Vocabulary	Share, help, together, turn-taking		Encourage, support, decision-making		Leadership, mentor, confidence, responsibility		