

Forest School activities will take place weekly and children need to be dressed appropriately. We ask that you provide the children with the following equipment which will be returned each week to wash.

- Trainers/ Walking boots (not wellies)
- Socks
- Base layers.
- Long sleeved T-shirt and jumper.
- Long hard wearing trousers.
- Waterproof trousers
- Waterproof coat
- Hat/ gloves
- Sun hats / sun cream

“This is the best kind of classroom, It’s a journey through time and space, From the smallest seed to the largest tree, This is a Forest and a learning place. This is the best kind of classroom, Where the seasons don’t happen in books. Where the learning is watching and thinking and talking and everyone notices, everyone looks.”

From

The best Kind of Classroom’

by Ian MacMillan

Your children will get muddy and dirty.

They will go out in all weathers (when safe to do so)

They will have fun.

A Forest School ethos will build their confidence and resilience and develop a growth mindset.

Guyhirn Church of England Primary School & Pre-School

Forest School



What is Forest Schools?

Forest Schools has developed from the Scandinavian education system and is about children and young people building self esteem and independence through exploring and experiencing the natural world. Forest Schools is a long term programme delivered by trained practitioners within a natural environment (not necessarily a Forest!). Each Forest School programme is tailored to meet the needs of individuals within that group and is continuously developed as the children/young people grow in confidence, skills and understanding. The ethos of Forest Schools allows learners the time and space to develop skills, interests and understanding through practical, hands on experiences. It also allows practitioners to step back and observe the children/young people in order to then encourage and inspire individuals to achieve through careful scaffolding and facilitating.

Where will my child be going?

Every Forest School is different. Our forest area is on our school playing field . We have a pond and building up our wildlife area. The site has some natural features and the site is safe; The area and activities undertaken are thoroughly risk assessed and managed appropriately by trained practitioners.

Our trained Practitioners are:

Mrs Cawston

Mrs White

What will my child be doing?

The Forest School routine varies , however it may include; preparing to go out by dressing in outdoor clothes such as waterproofs; singing special songs and sharing stories. Forest Schools will run all year round and in all weathers (unless weather conditions are dangerous). The child led ethos of Forest Schools means that once at the site the children can choose what to participate in, carefully supported and encouraged by trained adults.

Possible activities may include:

Natural crafts – making necklaces from elder, crowns or dreamcatchers from willow, collages from natural materials, weaving with long grasses, tree cookies, etc

Mud sculptures

Shelter building and knot tying

Tree climbing

Using tools for a purpose – such as peeling bark from sticks to make toasting forks.

Fire building and cooking on a camp fire

Sessions are planned around the individual's and group's needs, and built upon each week. All Forest School Leaders are qualified through nationally recognised and accredited training, therefore ensuring Forest Schools is a high quality learning experience. The earlier sessions will concentrate on safety; establishing boundaries and routines. As the children develop in confidence and familiarity with the environment the sessions focus on the development and consolidation of skills and understanding.