



Forest School Newsletter

Autumn Term 1 - September 2023

Welcome Back

Welcome to your seasonal Forest School Newsletter. My name is Isobel, and I am our Qualified Forest School teacher.

Autumn is probably the most active season in forest school with so many types of changes going on to alert all of our senses all at once. The trees are full of fruit as their leaves change from green to vibrant shades of orange and red before they fall, the grass is moist and squishy under our feet and wheels, we can smell the soil, squash the berries, watch the birds fly overhead to warmer places, see the squirrels running around and scampering for nuts and seeds to bury.

We are going to be busy in forest school this season, learning about the Autumn changes and the impact we feel from this.

The children will be cooking on the campfire, building dens and learning how to work together, making friends and reconnecting with old ones as they explore the outdoor environment.

In Forest School, we encourage the pupils to take acceptable levels of risk that are supervised by the Forest School lead and the support team of staff. The pupils are very much at the lead of their exploration and learning, and we are there to facilitate, answer their questions and guide their curiosities.

If you have any questions, or have experiences of the outdoors with your children you would like to share, please contact me;

isobel.jellyman@saxon.set.org

Thank you,
Isobel Jellyman



This Season...

Autumn is a beautiful time of year to be outdoors, and lots of us call it our favourite season. As well as the vibrant colours, there are festivals such as Harvest, Halloween, Diwali and Bonfire Night to enjoy, and the excitement in the run up to Christmas.

Out on the Forest School site, the pupils will be looking out for these changes, learning the science behind them and enjoying guided activities to enhance the learning experience.

They will be making bird feeders and keeping an eye on our bird population, making homes for a hedgehog and learning about their habitats, how to keep the site safe and clear of plastic and learning how to care for the site, spotting animal tracks and placing the wildlife camera, making scarecrows, potions, wild art and cooking safely on the fire as well as learning how to build dens, whittle, chop wood and all of their other Autumn favourites.



Pre-formal Learners

Forest Bathing amongst the changing colours will be a treat, collecting objects that make a noise and making paint from black berries to squish and paint with. They will also experience sensory stories and forest-themed sensology with objects to touch, taste and smell.

Links to learning

Science—habitats, the Seasons, animals, conservation

Communication and Language—story telling, labelling, signs and symbols

Art—creating art using natural materials

Understanding the world— caring for the environment

PSHE—making positive relationships

Suggested ideas at home

Go for an Autumn listening walk, stroll through the park or woodland area near you and stop for a minute, what can you hear?

Take your favourite story outside, build a den and read together.

Collect the crunchier dry leaves and make a stick rattle.

Please add photos to EFL of your adventures in Autumn!

Prepare a Halloween wreath using leaves and twigs.

Weather



We are experiencing a brief heatwave, so please continue to supply suncream, sun hats and tops that cover shoulders. As the weather cools, a blanket would be advisable. Wellies where appropriate, and if you are able to supply waterproof clothing this would be great, although I do have a limited supply here.

Stories and Websites

A great place to start, is Michael Rosen's, "We're Going on a Bear Hunt". A favourite for all our pupils here. This is a lovely sensory and interactive story, that is so familiar and can be acted out outdoors using very simple props.

There is also the short film available on DVD, or to stream on streaming services at home.

Suggested websites for ideas:

[15 Easy Autumn Forest School Activities \(thepracticalforestschool.com\)](http://thepracticalforestschool.com)

