



Forest School

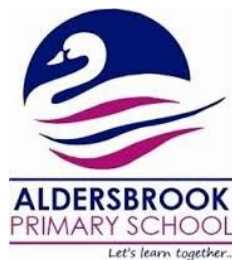
"This is the best kind of classroom,
It's a journey through time and space,
From the smallest seed to the largest tree,
This is a Forest and a learning place.

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



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Aldersbrook Primary School



Forest School

A Guide for Parents

What are Forest Schools?

"Forest School is an inspirational process that offers children and young people opportunities to achieve, develop confidence and self-esteem, through hands on learning experiences in a local woodland environment."

National definition: by Forest School (England) Network

What will my child be doing?
The Forest Skills routine varies depending on time of year, however it may include; preparing to go out by dressing in outdoor clothes such as waterproofs; singing special songs and sharing stories. Forest Skills will run all year round and in all weathers (unless weather conditions are considered to be dangerous).



Where will my child be going?

We are very fortunate to have links with The Corporation of London and work in partnership with the City of London. The site is a short walk from the school into the carefully chosen area's. The site's are safe; it is regularly and thoroughly risk assessed and managed appropriately by trained practitioners.

Curriculum Links - Forest Schools supports many areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage framework, National Curriculum and the Every Child Matters agenda.



Child Led Play

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:

- Hunting for minibeads
- Natural crafts - crowns or journey sticks
- Collages from natural materials,
- Weaving with long grasses
- Mud sculptures
- Shelter building and knot tying
- Tree climbing
- Imaginative writing
- Numeracy Investigations

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 that our Forest School 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.

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.