

Forest School: What your child will need

Forest School happens in all sorts of weather, which unfortunately we cannot predict!

Children will need appropriate clothing to go outside.

They will be provided with water-proof trousers and jackets which have been kindly donated by **Team Shirley**.

We will also take their school snack and water bottles with us.

Children will also need **named** wellies and other warm clothing when necessary.



Hats, sunscreen and a long sleeved t-shirt if the sun shines!

If you have any questions about

Forest School please do not hesitate to talk to us.

The Forest School Handbook containing all our policies and procedures is available on our website:
www.shirley.cambs.sch.uk

Forest School days will be confirmed in September

We welcome parent help so please come along if you can!

Forest School A classroom without walls



Do you remember having fun learning outdoors as a child? That is what we would like your child to experience.

What is Forest Schools?

The Forest School initiative originated in Scandinavia in the 1950's where they believed in the principle that children can benefit greatly from the hands on learning opportunities inherently present in a woodland environment, but it was a trip to Denmark in 1994 by the Early Years Department at Bridgwater College and the ideas they brought back that started the development of Forest School in this country. In 2003 the environment charity Green Light Trust, based in Suffolk was given the task of launching Forest School across the East of England with projects and training taking place in Suffolk, Norfolk, Essex and beyond.

Many County Councils and Wildlife trusts are now supporting and engaging with Forest School and Universities are now including Forest School in their Teacher training courses.



Forest Schools at Shirley

- Forest School is a unique way to deliver outdoor learning in accordance with curriculum guidelines raising children's confidence and self-esteem.
- As part of your child's activities in Reception, they will take part in a weekly session of Forest School at either the school's nature area or Bramblefields Nature Reserve, which is only a 10 minute walk away.
- There will be time for the children to explore within safe boundaries, and use tools under supervision.
- Through investigation they will learn more about their environment and how to take care of it.
- We will have lots of fun using imagination and creativity which can lead to some fascinating story telling sessions both in the forest and back at school.
- We will offer children the chance to talk about what they have learnt, enjoyed and what they are good at. This will help us to plan for future activities.
- Positive behaviour is supported by activities that use play and active learning processes .

Forest School helps children to develop:

- Self-esteem and confidence
- Communication and language skills
- An understanding and appreciation of the natural environment
- Creativity and imagination
- Motivation and concentration
- A positive attitude to learning
- The ability to recognise and manage risks

