



Why is Forest School such a great opportunity for your children?

1. It is proven from research that learning that takes place in the outdoors is much more powerful and memorable as all the senses are involved.
2. Forest Schools develop children through a child led approach.
3. Children are taught how to assess risks for themselves.
4. Children are able to develop their speech, language, social skills and empathy.
5. They learn to respect and appreciate the countryside

The Magic of Forest School

Originally a Scandinavian idea, forest schools operate on the principle that children of all ages can benefit greatly from the hands on learning opportunities inherently present in a woodland environment. In an age when many children have few opportunities to be outdoors, it offers them a way to learn and experience a broad curriculum in a woodland setting, with regular visits throughout the year.



Bythams Primary
School



Forest School Parent's Information Leaflet



"The best classroom and the richest cupboard are roofed only by the sky".

Margaret McMillan

Forest School

Forest School is an inspirational process that involves:



The importance of Outdoor learning...

Daily access to the outdoors when in an Early Years setting is a statutory requirement for all children. But it is not just essential for children in the Early Years it is essential for ALL children and adults. Outdoor learning/play is a critical component of good provision and must be encouraged. It is essential for the healthy development of all young children.

Learning outside offers opportunities to build on and extend, skills taught and acquired inside. It also offers the chance to take on new challenges and risks and to investigate in a different way. The physical freedom of learning outside through climbing, exploring, running, jumping and balancing supports development of the young child's body towards the finer movements that will be required for such skills as writing. Experiencing the weather, searching for insects, climbing a tree or working on a large scale is learning that can only happen outside.



- * child initiated learning;
- * being outdoors;
- * integration with the National Curriculum;
- * Time for children to explore, learn and investigate;
- * Fun, imagination and creativity;
- * Using only the natural resources around us

Forest School helps to

develop:

- * confidence and self esteem;
- * communication and social skills;
- * physical skills;
- * greater understanding and awareness of the natural environment;
- * natural motivation and a positive attitude to learning;
- * Creativity and imagination;
- * Team skills;
- * the ability to recognise and manage risk; and
- * healthier lifestyles.

What will happen during a forest school session?

The sessions will be run at The Spinney or in our Bythams Woodland and will last between 1 hour– 2 hours depending on the ages of the children. The sessions will be run by 2 adults. 1 qualified staff member and 1 supporting staff member. The sessions will run in the following format;

The Forest School sessions will follow a routine that the children will soon become familiar with, including a group discussion, activity and explore in the woodland, snack and a final get together for reflection time before home time.

