Selborne Forest School



What is Forest School?





Forest School is hands-on outdoor learning in a natural environment. It takes place all year round and in all weathers.

It is run by a Level 3 Forest School Leader

History and development

- Forest School is an idea that has come over from Scandinavia. In the 1990's a group of teachers went over to Denmark to observe their Early Years settings and developed what we now call Forest School, in the UK.
- In 2012 the Forest School Association was created as a governing professional body and the principles that define Forest School were created.

The principles that define Forest School.

1. **Forest School is a long-term process of regular sessions, rather than one-off or infrequent visits. The cycle of planning, observation, adaptation and review links each session.**
2. **Forest School takes place in a natural or woodland environment to support the development of a lifelong relationship between the learner and the natural world.**
3. **Forest School aims to promote the holistic development of all involved, fostering resilient, confident, independent and creative learners.**
4. **Forest School offers learners the opportunity to take supported risks appropriate to the environment and to themselves.**
5. **Forest School is run by qualified Forest School practitioners, who continuously maintain and develop their professional practice.**
6. **Forest School uses a range of learner-centred processes to create a community for being, development and learning.**

Some activities include…



den building

camp fires





using tools

creative crafts

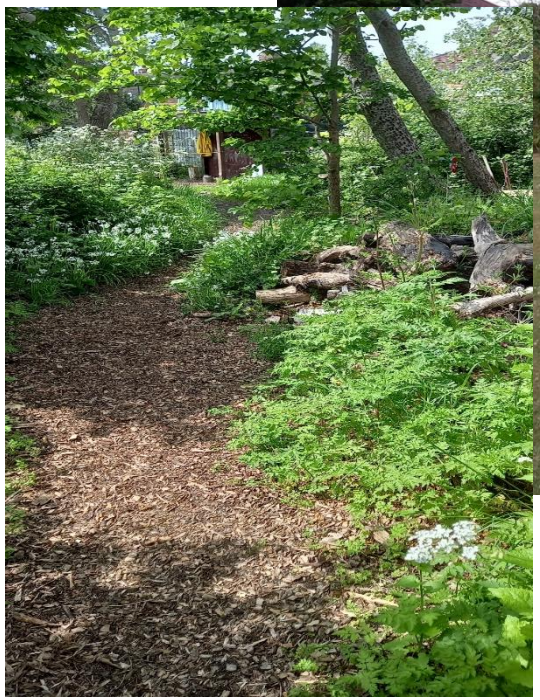


observing nature



Forest School takes place in a natural or woodland environment.







The development of our site took place during the summer 2022.













What our site looks like now…

Base camp-

Every session begins and ends at here.



Digging Area



Mud Kitchen



Nature Pond



Woodland clearing





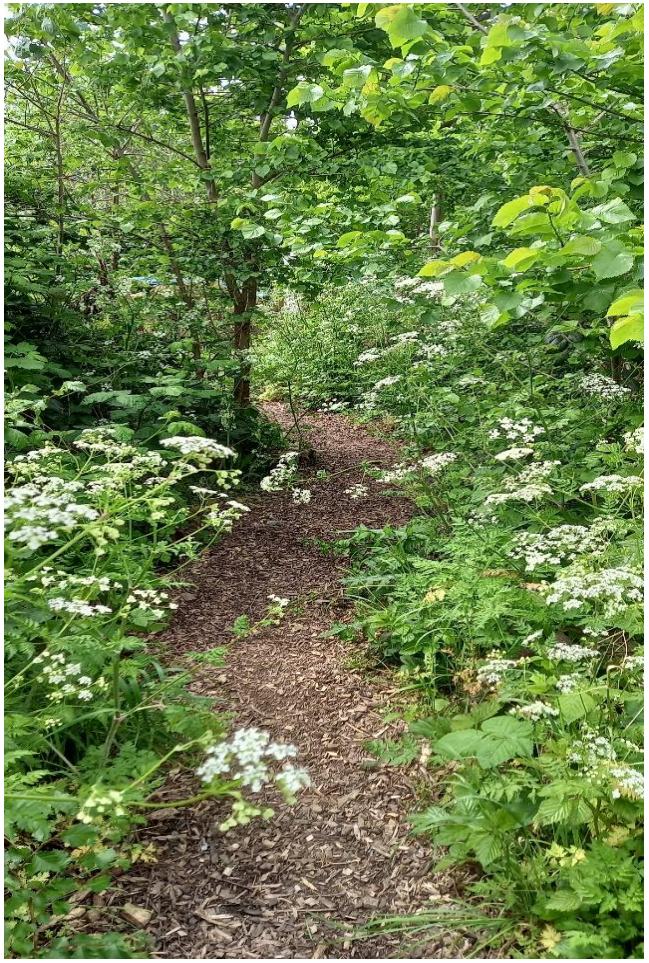
Phase 4- Meadow mound



Composting and water collection



Woodland pathways





Open grass area



Bird hide



Log pile habitat



Ongoing-

planting more trees and making more habitats for nature.





Our Forest School Vision

At Selborne Primary School we understand the importance of outdoor learning and with the addition of the Forest School, strive to enhance opportunities for children to learn in a more natural outdoor setting. We endeavour to offer children, throughout their Selborne journey, the opportunity to learn about nature, through nature directly. We hope children at Selborne will develop a deep and lifelong love and respect for the natural environment.



At Selborne we follow all 6 principles of Forest School

Forest School is a long-term process of regular sessions, rather than one-off or infrequent visits. The cycle of planning, observation, adaptation and review links each session.

Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and ARP children receive a block of 6 week sessions, lasting 2 hours each.

After school clubs are run throughout the year to offer all children the opportunity to experience Forest School.



Forest School aims to promote the holistic development of all involved, fostering resilient, confident, independent and creative learners.

Every session begins with a sharing of emotions (linked to our Zones of Regulation).





Forest School offers learners the opportunity to take supported risks appropriate to the environment and to themselves.

This includes tools and fire.







Forest School uses a range of learner-centred processes to create a community for being, development and learning.

The environment is set up with a variety of opportunities and children are given the choice of what to do.
There is usually a focused activity, guided by the Forest School leader, which children may choose to take part in.





