

Mugginton Church of England Primary School



Forest Friday Factsheet September 2023



At Mugginton, celebrating and appreciating the wonder of animals and the natural world is an integral part of our identity. We are very fortunate to have use of a lovely forest site, only a short walk from the school. Every Friday afternoon, the whole school walks down to the forest to enjoy outdoor learning.

What is Forest Schools?

Forest Schools originated in Scandinavia in the 1950s as a way of learning about the natural world, by the 1980s they had become an integral part of the Danish early years program. Forest Schools are successful for children of all ages who visit the same woodlands on a regular basis. Through play, they learn about the natural environment, how to handle risks and most importantly to use their own initiative to solve problems and co-operate with others. Children explore, play, learn boundaries of behaviour, skills to use tools, light fires, and grow in confidence, self-esteem and motivation.



Forest Schools: *Intent, Implementation, Impact*

At Mugginton Church of England Primary School, Forest Schools provides a nurturing space that supports our children's wellbeing by providing and implementing positive, outdoor, child-centred experiences in a natural setting. We endeavour to promote and develop a love, and respect, for nature and the great outdoors.

All children participate in Forest Schools, every Friday afternoon. Mrs Wallen leads the sessions alongside Mrs Bennett, with Mrs Sweeny and Mr Wraith assisting each week. The children participate in 4 different mixed-aged groups, where they work collaboratively to develop a range of practical skills such as knot tying, fire lighting and the safe, responsible use of tools.



Children are active, take ownership of their learning and develop their self-esteem through a variety of tasks. Children develop knowledge of sustainability and respect for their learning environment and the outdoors as a whole. They enjoy nature hunts, identifying trees, plants, birds and insects. Children develop their teamwork skills and increase their capability to work together to solve problems in a variety of ways, taking into account one another's ideas. Positive relationships are built through these sessions and children are both enabled and empowered to achieve their holistic potential.

How will my child benefit from Forest School?

Through the Forest School ethos we aim to provide children with opportunities to take measured risks, learn more about themselves and their relationships with others. Under the guidance of our staff, we aim for all children to experience nature in a hands on, safe, secure and supported environment. Activities are carefully planned to provide small achievable tasks so that no child will fail thus helping to raise self-esteem and confidence in every child. Children learn how to work with and react to the natural environment.

