



Padiham Green

Forest School

Skills

Progression Document

Padiham Green Church of England Primary School

Progression Map – Forest School



Below is a guide of suggested skills, which will be covered in each year group, activities may vary depending on the ability and competence of each cohort/ class and individual child.

All activities listed below will be risk assessed and monitored by the Forest School leader.

EYFS

Intent

- Become familiar with the FS site and the boundaries.
- Understand the PG FS rules.
- Build simple dens and shelters.
- Identify simple woodland materials.
- Use natural materials in a creative way.
- Low level climb and balance.

Implementation

Skills

- Children know where they are/ are not permitted to go.
- Children know how to keep themselves and others stay safe at FS.
- Children can build simple lean-to dens and shelters using branches and tarpaulins.

- Children can identify materials such as sticks, pinecones, leaves as well as potential hazards e.g. nettles, brambles.
- To climb knowing how to assess own risk.

Impact

- Children know where the Forest School boundaries are.
- Children know how to keep themselves and others stay safe in Forest School.
- Children can build simple lean-to dens and shelters using branches and tarpaulins.
- Children can identify materials such as sticks, pinecones, leaves as well as potential hazards e.g. nettles, brambles.

Year 1

Intent

- To understand where the FS site is and the boundaries.
- Understand the basic rules of FS.
- Build simple dens and shelters.
- Identify simple woodland materials.
- Use natural materials in a creative way.
- Undertake mini beast hunting activities.
- Toasting marshmallows.
- Low level climb and balance.

Implementation

Skills

- Children know where they are/ are not permitted to go.
- Children know how to keep themselves and others stay safe at FS.
- Children can build simple lean-to dens and shelters using branches and tarpaulins.
- Children can make tyre swings using ropes.
- Children know where and how to climb trees safely.
- Children can identify materials such as sticks, pinecones, leaves as well as potential hazards e.g. nettles, brambles.
- Children select appropriate materials to make individual sculptures and pictures.
- Children know how and where to safely search for mini beasts.

- Children learn how to safely move around the fire circle and toast marshmallows around the communal fire.
- To climb knowing how to assess own risk.

Impact

- Children know where the Forest School boundaries are.
- Children know how to keep themselves and others stay safe in Forest School.
- Children can build simple lean-to dens and shelters using branches and tarpaulins.
- Children can identify materials such as sticks, pinecones, leaves as well as potential hazards e.g. nettles, brambles.
- Children select appropriate materials to make individual sculptures and pictures.
- Children know how and where to safely search for mini beasts.
- Children learn how to safely move around the fire circle and toast marshmallows around the communal fire.

Year 2

Intent

- To know the expectations of being at Forest School.
- Knot tie in various ways.
- To know where a suitable place is to build a den/ shelter.
- To understand how the woodland ecosystem works.
- Low level climb and balance.

Implementation

Skills

- Know the rules and expectations of being at Forest School.
- Tie a selection of simple knots.
- Join materials together.
- Build simple dens and shelters.
- Begin to think about how we can support the woodland ecosystem.
- Undertake low-level climbing/ balancing activities.
- Toasting marshmallows.

Impact

- Children have a good understanding of what the rules are in Forest School that keep themselves and others safe.
- Children learn to tie a reef knot and an over-hand loop knot.
- Children use learnt knots to tie materials together (dens/ Art/ D.T. activities)
- Children can build simple lean-to dens and shelters using branches and tarpaulins.
- If children express an interest, they can be taught how to select appropriate trees to climb and techniques to use.
- The slackline may also be used to develop balancing skills.
- Children learn how to safely move around the fire circle and toast marshmallows around the communal fire.

Year 3

Intent

- Know the rules and expectations of being at Forest School.
- Tie a selection of knots.
- Build simple dens and shelters.
- To improve balance and climbing skills.
- To understand fire safety.
- To understand the need to sustain and enhance woodlands through intervention, through activities such as; coppicing, pollarding, Re-planting.

Implementation

Skills

- Have a clear understanding of the expectations at Forest School.
- Use small hand tools.
- With support, use a bow saw.
- Tie a wider range of knots.
- Build improvised and identifiable dens and shelters.
- Be aware and take part in simple woodland management techniques.
- Begin to have an understanding about open-fire management.
- Undertake tree climbing.

Impact

- Children demonstrate that they know and understand how to behave appropriately at Forest School and where necessary advise/ support others.
- Children learn how to set up a tool area and safely use; secateurs, hand saw to cut different sized sticks, twigs and branches.
- Children learn to pair- cut tree cookies with the support of an adult.
- Children expand on the range of knots they can tie, by learning how to tie a sheer lash and timber hitch.
- Children are given the opportunity to construct their own dens as well as being taught how to build shelters such as an 'A' frame/ lean-to shelter.
- Children learn that sometimes we can support, sustain and enhance woodlands through intervention, through activities such as; coppicing, pollarding, re-planting, clearing, fence building, path laying.
- Children learn about what PPE is used to keep themselves and others safe when using the fire.
- Children know how to select appropriate trees for climbing and understand the safety considerations for the activity.

Year 4

Intent

- Know the rules and expectations of being at Forest School.
- Tie a selection of knots.
- Build simple dens and shelters.
- To improve balance and climbing skills.
- To understand fire safety.
- To build and create items using wood and hand tools.

Implementation

Skills

- Have a clear understanding of the expectations at Forest School.
- Use small hand tools.
- With support, use a bow saw.
- Tie a wider range of knots.
- Build improvised and identifiable dens and shelters.
- Be aware and take part in simple woodland management techniques.

- *Begin to have an understanding about open-fire management.*
- *Undertake tree climbing.*
- *Children build items such as; improvised birdhouses.*

Impact

- *Children demonstrate that they know and understand how to behave appropriately at Forest School and where necessary advise/ support others.*
- *Children learn how to set up a tool area and safely use; secateurs, hand saw to cut different sized sticks, twigs and branches.*
- *Children learn to pair- cut tree cookies with the support of an adult.*
- *Children expand on the range of knots they can tie, by learning how to tie a sheer lash and timber hitch.*
- *Children are given the opportunity to construct their own dens as well as being taught how to build shelters such as an 'A' frame/ lean-to shelter.*
- *Children learn about what PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) is used to keep themselves and others safe when using the fire.*
- *Children know how to select appropriate trees for climbing and understand the safety considerations for the activity.*

Year 5

Intent

- *Know the rules and expectations of being at Forest School.*
- *Tie a wider selection of knots.*
- *Build simple dens and shelters.*
- *To understand fire safety.*
- *To build and create items using wood and hand tools.*

Implementation

Skills

- *Have a clear understanding of the rules and expectations at Forest School.*
- *Learn to tie a wider range of knots and lashes.*
- *Build a range of woodland furniture.*
- *Use a bow saw.*
- *Use a bush craft knife.*

- Erect tarpaulin shelters.

Impact

- Children demonstrate that they know and understand and can describe how to behave appropriately at FS and where necessary advise/support others.
- Children learn how to tie;
A taught tarp hitch, square lash, adjustable slipknot.
- Children learn to build items such as seating, racks, washing up stations, using different bush craft techniques.
- Children learn how to use a bow saw both individually and in a pair with another child.
- Children learn the safe practices when using a bush craft knife and use it to whittle and split small pieces of wood.
- Children learn how to site a suitable location and erect a tarpaulin shelter using recognised knots.

Year 6

Children should have learnt the majority of the skills outlined in the previous years, before progressing to the next set of skills.

Intent

- Know the rules and expectations of being at Forest School.
- Tie a wider selection of knots.
- Build simple dens and shelters.
- To understand fire safety.
- To build and create items using wood and hand tools.
- To follow fire safety rules.

Implementation

Skills

- Begin to have an understanding about open-fire management and outdoor cooking.
- Have a clear understanding of the rules and expectations at Forest School.
- Learn to tie a wider range of knots and lashes.
- Build a range of woodland furniture.
- Use a bow saw.
- Use a bush craft knife.

- Erect tarpaulin shelters.
- Children learn how to site a suitable location for a temporary fire, understand what PPE is required, prepare the area, set up a fire area, gather and prepare appropriate material, use a fire striker to light their fire, use suitable grades of fuel, safely extinguish the fire and correctly dispose of fire remains.

Impact

- Children demonstrate that they know and understand and can describe how to behave appropriately at Forest School and where necessary advise/ support others.
- Children learn how to tie;
A taught tarp hitch, square lash, adjustable slipknot.
- Children learn to build items such as seating, racks, washing up stations, using different bush craft techniques.
- Children learn how to use a bow saw both individually and in a pair with another child.
- Children learn the safe practices when using a bush craft knife and use it to whittle and split small pieces of wood.
- Children learn how to site a suitable location and erect a tarpaulin shelter using recognised knots.
- Children to understand the fire safety expectations and how to keep themselves and others safe.