



## Feedback from Year 4 children about Forest School (December 2023)

### General questions about Forest School

<p><b>What is Forest School about?</b></p> <p>*Anna – it is about how we can learn about natural life and what we can do about the natural world and how we can survive in it.</p> <p>*Teddy – it is about how you can stay safe if you end up stuck in a forest</p> <p>*Ellie – it is about nature and having fun safely.</p> <p>*Phoebe – it is about learning without really knowing you are learning because it is so much fun and not inside a classroom.</p>
<p><b>Why is Forest School important?</b></p> <p>*Phoebe – Forest School is important because you can learn different stuff like a fire.</p> <p>*Anna – if you were on an airplane and it crashed in a forest, we learnt how we can survive and not get hurt by the hazards.</p> <p>*Teddy – It teaches you survival skills and how to be safe.</p> <p>*Ellie – if you needed a fire in a forest you would know how to light one.</p>
<p><b>Tell me about your favourite Forest School session and tell me why you enjoyed learning about this</b></p> <p>*Ellie – we played tree spies and we were roasting marshmallows. It has been good spending time with Miss Killian before you leave and getting to know everything you know about the forest.</p> <p>*Teddy – when we did the tool work with Catherine, we did snowmen and made things and were in the tool area. It was fun and we were raising money for the Makers Market.</p> <p>*Anna – I liked when we making square lashing poppy's and snowflakes, it was really fun and I could do it after a while and it was a challenge for my hands.</p> <p>*Phoebe – where we cooked marshmallows and used tree clay to make tree Santa's, it was fun and made me happy.</p>
<p><b>Are there any areas in Forest School that you are still unsure about?</b></p> <p>*Ellie – where there are little pot animals I think they should be moved to the ground by as a strong wind could make them fall over. I think the toilet should be in a space where people might get hurt to act as a visual to stop them.</p> <p>*Teddy – the mud kitchen, why can't we use it when we know about hazards? Can we not find a way to make it safe?</p>
<p><b>How do you know if you are doing well in Forest School?</b></p> <p>*Anna – you know what you are doing, you are confident and your friends compliment you. You are able to tell people what you did</p> <p>*Ellie – if you go in the forest with your parents you are able to tell them what to do. You can tell your younger siblings what to expect.</p> <p>*Phoebe – you show you are confident because you are achieving things</p> <p>*Teddy – I know because in the first session I was really nervous but my confidence grew.</p>
<p><b>What happens if you are finding tasks difficult in Forest School?</b></p> <p>*Ellie – you could ask a teacher or a friend if they know more about Forest School and can help you.</p> <p>*Teddy – keep trying and if you cannot do it ask someone.</p> <p>*Phoebe – ask a teacher or a friend and if the teacher is busy your friends will help.</p> <p>*Anna – try to use your memory and remember what you were told.</p>
<p><b>What do you need to do to improve your knowledge and skills in Forest School?</b></p> <p>*Teddy – listen and don't do stuff you are not told to do.</p> <p>*Ellie – be respectful, safe and ready to explore.</p> <p>*Phoebe – practise things home if it is safe to do, so like knots.</p> <p>*Anna – ask your parents to help you, maybe they did this kind of thing when they were younger at Guides.</p>
<p><b>In your sessions, you used the hitch clove knot and square lashings to create poppy's, snowflakes and a Christmas tree, what can you tell me about this?</b></p> <p>*Anna – I remember when I first did it was really hard and I decided to stay and help people when I had finished even though I could go and explore. The square lashing is when you go under over it and turn and keep going on the stick. <b>Correct</b></p> <p>*Ellie – when I saw Erin struggle I suggested she have a break and watch for a minute so she could see how I did it and then try again. The hitch clove knot is where you make loops on a stick and tie through and tie it again tight. <b>Correct</b></p> <p>*Teddy – I was struggling but then Michael showed me how he was doing it and I got the hang of it.</p> <p>*Phoebe – I was struggling and Anna helped it.</p>

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#### If you were to use these methods again to create an item, what would you do differently?

\*Ellie – we try different ideas so we wouldn't just do poppy's or snowflakes we would research our own ideas of things to make and try them.

\*Anna – I would try to use my creativity and add things to it now that I know how to do it.

\*Teddy – I would make different things that don't have to be given to For Tyldesley as we never got the poppies back.

#### Can you explain what some of this Forest School vocabulary means? Site Sweep Risk Assessment, hazards, tool talk, blood bubble, tool area, boundary fences.

\*Anna – a site sweep is where you follow a check list and check if it is safe and take actions to solve the problems. **Correct**

\*Ellie – if you find some hazard you can write it down then hand it to the teacher or discuss it with my friends when we feedback.

**Correct**

\*Phoebe – a tool talk is where we talk through how to safely use a tool and whether we need a rigger glove or what hand to use the glove with. **Correct**

\*Ellie – the boundary fences are green and go all the way around the forest and then there is a really long silver one. **Correct**

\*Teddy – A blood bubble is a blood with bubble. **Incorrect**

#### Can you think of tasks you have done in Forest School that link to things that you have learned before with a different teacher?

\*Phoebe – Fires, we did them at Brownies and had a fire I think.

\*Ellie – I have been to a forest and became lost with my mum and we worked our way out like we learnt at Forest School.

\*Anna – I remember when we had the first session we did the volcano, we also did volcanoes in the hall and told the teacher how we had done this already in Forest School with pumpkins and what we already knew did not work so that this time it could work straight away and we didn't need to try different ways.

\*Teddy – I did a fire when I went camping with dad and I knew what to do because Miss Killian had taught me at Forest School. My dad was really impressed.

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## Feedback from Year 4 children about Forest School (December 2023)

### Subject specific questions about Forest School

#### **What are the forest school rules?**

- \*Ellie – you have to be safe and listen to the teachers to look after your friends. **Correct**
- \*Anna – don't lick, kick or pick anything. **Correct**
- \*Phoebe – look after the wildlife and only move it if it is in danger. **Correct**
- \*Ellie – I can't see through the forest from outside it as I have looked from behind, you have to stay in the boundary fences. **Correct**
- \*Phoebe – look after the nature in the forest and the surroundings. **Correct**
- \*Anna – if Miss Killian shouts base, we shout camp and we stop and listen then go to basecamp. If it is the whistle it means it could be an emergency so go straight back. **Correct**

#### **What are the fire circle rules?**

- \*Anna – if you burn yourself don't tell the teacher first go straight to the water fire bucket and put it in then get someone to tell the adult as you could burn whilst you are waiting for help. If your body is burning stop, drop and roll then Miss Killian will wrap you in the fire blanket to put it out. **Correct**
- \*Phoebe – never walk through the fire circle, go around it. If someone goes through it, shout 'LAVA' and then they have to get out as it's hot like a volcano and a fire spreads. **Correct**
- \*Teddy – fire gloves are for when you are doing fire work so you must wear these to add to the fire so you cannot get burnt. Kneel at the fire bit to protect yourself as you don't want to burn your privates. **Correct**
- \*Phoebe – always sit on the logs, never stand or rock as that's what happened to the supply that did not believe Miss Killian and she fell off. **Correct**
- \*Ellie – take the rubbish back to school otherwise it will go back to being a dump like it was before a forest. **Correct**
- \*Teddy – everyone is responsible for safety. **Correct**

#### **What tips would you give another year group before they go to forest school?**

- \*Anna – don't mess about and if you see something dangerous don't just leave it and do nothing tell the Forest School leader.
- \*Ellie – if you see an animal that is hurt or should not be there tell the Forest School leader so action can be taken to look after it.
- \*Phoebe – tell them not go in the fire circle unless invited.
- \*Anna – tell them about the kit they need to wear, they should never wear jeans as when they get wet get cold and you can't move around or run from a fire in jeans. So jeans are not really safe.
- \*Teddy – maybe tell them the rules before they go so they know what to do.

#### **What developments would you like to see in Forest School?**

- \*Ellie – I would like to have real animals like chickens.
- \*Anna – could we be sustainable and grow our own food in the forest rather than having to buy food to cook.
- \*Phoebe – could we bring our own food for the fires sessions?
- \*Teddy – it is already perfect and beautiful; we could maybe plant flowers. Will flowers grow?
- \*Phoebe – could we learn more about what fruit is poisonous that grows in the forest. Miss Killian told us about the red berries that are growing.

#### **What would you like to do more of at Forest School?**

- \*Phoebe – make more stuff to take home.
- \*Ellie – go in with our teachers and teaching assistants as they have never been to the forest. Have a sign that says what year groups have been, like a memory to see in years to come.
- \*Teddy – use more tools, there were loads of tools I don't think we had used before. If we came last year would we have done even more?!
- \*Anna – more cooking. When Miss Kilian goes, will the new people know the silly campfire songs that we were taught from scouts or will they do different things?

### Action to take as a result of Year 4 Pupil Feedback on Forest School

- \*Ensure the children understand the terminology of a blood bubble.
- \*Pass on a copy of the campfire songs booklet to Wigan BeWell Team.
- \*Feed back to Wigan BeWell Team the pupil voice from Year 4 and Year 5 to form part of their future planning.

**Next Pupil Feedback review: Autumn Term 2024**

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