



Feedback from Year 5 children about Forest School (December 2023)

General questions about Forest School

What is Forest School about?

- *Amelia – when people are afraid of the forest you can learn about different species and tree and poison ivy and normal ivy. You become less fearful of forest and you want to play there.
- *Grace – sometimes in life you may not get chance to experience it so it's good that you set it up.
- *Jackson – Forest School is about learning about the forest and all the different things in you can explore in there and learning about the wildlife.
- *Isla – Forest School is about every class going in with Miss Killian. You made us lie down in the first session for wellbeing and most of us didn't want to as it was muddy, but at the end we all did it because we were not afraid of the mud anymore.

Why is Forest School important?

- *Isla – Forest School is important because some people don't get to experience it and you get to do fun things and build fires.
- *Grace – at Forest School you learn about different animals in nature and how to survive if you got stuck in a forest and how to build a fire to stay warm so you don't die. At Low Bank ground we could have done with knowing this when they took us a really long hike.
- *Amelia – Forest School is important because you get to learn what you can and can't touch, TK you always say don't pick don't pick and don't kick and if we follow the rules we will be safe.
- *Jackson – in Forest School we can learn about the dangers of the forest which is why it is important as when you are older you wouldn't know what to do but now you do from Forest School.

Tell me about your favourite Forest School session and tell me why you enjoyed learning about this?

- *Amelia – building the fires because now I know not to be scared of fire as I can do it safely and use a flint and steel. And litter picking because it makes me sick as it pollutes the earth and I want the animals to be safe.
- *Isla – building the bird boxes next because now it is in the Forest School and helping nature.
- *Jackson – I think it is the hot chocolate and the marshmallows, because I like eating. I enjoyed roasting them and watching it go gooey.
- *Grace – I enjoyed the Forest School when we had the pallet area activities and when we played tree spies, because I could explore the nature around us.

Are there any areas in Forest School that you are still unsure about?

- *Jackson – the mud pit because I don't want to get muddy and I don't want to go in the giant hole because I might drown in mud.
- *Grace – why we haven't got a toilet we can use in Forest School and have to walk back to school on our own in the cold.
- *Amelia – When you walk in the Forest School there is a big branch and I hurt myself and I am not sure if I should have told you about it as it is a hazard.
- *Isla – how to know what is bad with trees and how you can get hurt.

How do you know if you are doing well in Forest School?

- *Amelia – because Miss Killian can tell us that's right and we know because we have achieved it and it is not a one off thing you can go back to it.
- *Grace – we know that we would not do anything wrong because we follow the Forest School rules and that keeps us safe. You should always encourage anyone to try their best, because if you don't try it how will you know if you are good at it.
- *Isla – if you were doing something right TK would tell you it's really good so we would know it's right.
- *Jackson – you should just believe in yourself that you are doing great things.

What happens if you are finding tasks difficult in Forest School?

- *Isla – you ask a member of staff or a friend to help you.
- *Grace – you could watch other people and observe what they are doing, you can then learn and adapt what they are doing. You could get your friends help
- *Amelia – you can go to another area and come back and try again after a break. Or you can step back and watch.
- *Jackson – try your best and try to ask a friend if you can work with them.

'Never settle for less than your best'



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What do you need to do to improve your knowledge and skills in Forest School?

*Grace – you need to pay attention to Miss Killian and listen and not mess about so you know about the hazards and what to do to stay safe, but have fun.

*Amelia – you cannot mess around and ensure you listen so you learn everything so then when you don't know you can learn.

*Isla – listen carefully and ask staff or a friend.

In your sessions, you led lighting a fire using the fire triangle in Forest School, what can you tell me about it?

*Isla – you need 3 elements to make a fire: heat, fuel and oxygen. Fuel is hay, cotton wool, sticks, wood. You need to have dry wood because if it wet the fire will not catch light. **Correct**

*Jackson – heat is using the flint and steel, to use it you hold it and scrap it hard and fast to get a spark and once you keep getting the spark it hits the cotton pad and catches light. **Correct**

*Amelia – if you want the fire to grow you add things like the hay to fuel it. **Correct**

*Grace – if at first you don't succeed you try again, at first I was really scared but then it was like wow when I did it.

If you were to light a fire again, what would you do differently?

*Isla – I would use a lighter or something that is quicker

*Grace – maybe kneel back more because I have an inhaler so that would mean you don't have to worry about my asthma as much because I can look after myself.

*Amelia – be aware myself how to not get burnt so you don't have to tell me to keep me safe.

*Jackson – I would do a bigger fire so we could boil the water to make the hot chocolate and bring something to put it into so we don't need an urn.

Can you explain what some of this Forest School vocabulary means? LAVA, blood bubble, tool area, hazards, tool talk, square lashing, hitch clove knot.

*Grace – LAVA: it is where if someone shouts LAVA you stop and don't go in the fire circle. You have to wait to be invited in or you will get burnt. **Correct**

*Amelia – I think it is the tape around the tool area that acts as a visual to remind you tools can hurt if you run in there so it's like the fire circle really you cannot go in uninvited. **Correct**

*Isla – the tool area is where we do tool work like where did the knife and the hammer, we had it in the tool box locked away when we were not using them. **Correct**

*Jackson – a hazard is where it is unsafe to go near, you do a site sweep to check the hazards and you take action if you can to reduce it. **Correct**

*Amelia – it is a type of knot where we used it round the sticks to make a cross and we did it to make the nests. **Nearly correct.**

Can you think where tasks you have done in forest school link to things that you have learned before in school or on residential before?

*Jackson – at Low Bank Ground we made a fire but we didn't do it, they did it.

*Grace – in Design Technology we have used a knife to make soup.

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Subject specific questions about Forest School

What are the forest school rules?

- *Grace – look after the forest. Don't lick, pick or kick. Look after the environment. **Correct**
- *Amelia – stay inside the boundary fences. **Correct**
- *Jackson – be kind the wildlife. **Correct**
- *Grace – when Miss Killian shouts 'base' we shout 'camp'. It's base camp and we stop and come back. **Correct**
- *Isla – don't be mean to your friends and help them. **Correct**

What are the fire circle rules?

- *Isla – If you are not invited in the fire circle don't come in. **Correct**
- *Jackson – if you do go into the fire circle unattended someone will shout lava and you need to get out. **Correct**
- *Grace – walk around the fire circle never across it. **Correct**
- *Grace – always use the fire gloves for when you do fire work. **Correct**
- *Amelia – we have the fire bucket if you burn or hurt yourself you put your fingers in the bucket for 8 minutes, if it doesn't work you do it again. You don't tell the teacher first as you are burning whilst you are waiting you put your hand in the bucket then get a friend to get an adult for first aid. **Correct**
- *Isla – always take the litter away with you and don't rock on the logs. **Correct**

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

- *Isla – I would say if you get burnt put it in the fire bucket straight away.
- *Jackson – if you are scared of anything don't run away just be calm.
- *Grace – when Miss Killian goes we will be upset, but we will keep telling everyone about you and what you did and how amazing it was.
- *Amelia – Never go in the fire circle without an invitation.

What improvements would you like to see in Forest School?

- *Grace – make the mud kitchen mud pit bigger so it's more accessible and find a way we can make it safer to use in the winter.
- *Isla – we could put a tarp over the mud pit and investigate if that stops it becoming so muddy.
- *Amelia – a shed so we don't have to keep carrying everything all the time.
- *Jackson – a wellington station so we can put the wellingtons on at forest not in the classroom.

What would you like to do more of at forest school?

- *Jackson – I want to see the Forest School at night and if it is different.
- *Isla – I want to see what other classes do at Forest School, maybe we could have an assembly to share what people have been doing or a display.

Action to take as a result of Year 5 Pupil Feedback on Forest School

- *Ask Mr Grogan for a shed for resources to be placed in Forest School.
- *Encourage class teachers and teaching assistants to use the Forest School within the week and allow the children to share their knowledge and skills with the staff to support learning in other areas of the curriculum.

Next Pupil Feedback review: Autumn Term 2024

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