

## How do we keep the children safe?

The forest school leader is fully qualified and at least one member of staff nearby will be first aid qualified. The site will have been carefully assessed and the children will be given detailed training for all of the activities. There are also a higher number of adults to children than in a classroom.

Part of forest school is teaching children about risks and how to evaluate them. So the children will be taught about how to add fuel to a fire, cook and make drinks using a fire, climb trees, tie knots, build dens and use tools. These activities will be introduced as the children in the group are ready for them and will be carefully supervised by an adult. By allowing children to take these measured risks, we help to prepare them for making choices when they are older and teach them to be actively responsible for themselves, their choices and actions.

## What if it's raining?

**“There is no such thing as the wrong bad weather, only the wrong clothes”**

Forest school will be able to go ahead in almost all weathers as the children are expected to have clothes on that will keep them warm and dry. If there are high winds, thunderstorms or very bad weather then the forest school session will be cancelled.



## ***What will they wear? THIS IS SO IMPORTANT***

**For every session your child will need:**

- Wellies/walking shoes or boots
- Warm Socks
- Full length trousers
- Waterproof trousers
- Waterproof coat
- Warm jumper
- Gloves



## Sandford St. Martin's Forest School





## What is Forest School?

**Forest school is an exciting opportunity for your child to experience nature and to learn collaboratively outdoors.**

**At Forest School the children learn from first hand experience and develop skills like perseverance, independence - as well as team work; building on their self esteem and responsibility.**

**These are all skills that will help them to achieve more when they are back in the classroom and in life beyond school based learning.**

## Who is running it and where will it be?

Mr Beveridge, Mrs Pampin, Miss Colley, Miss Walker and Mr Sampson will be running Forest School sessions with assistance from other adults in the school. The team are currently working towards the Forest Leaders qualification for which practical group instruction is essential. The sessions will take place on the school grounds, mainly on the site off the back of the field. It is a piece of woodland fenced off from the rest of the school. To maintain the site there may be occasions where groups will need to partake in FS at other nearby locations. Parental permission will be sought for off site activities on these occasions.



## What will happen in a typical session?

A typical session will be 75-90 mins long. The children start the session with a safety walk/talk. They will start with a game or story and then a discussion time and any demonstrations around base camp. The children then will have the opportunity to choose from a variety of activities. The session will usually end with hot chocolate and a biscuit and final discussion of what they have learnt and what they would like to do in further sessions. This review session is important.

The children will have 6 sessions over a given term initially.

## What will they do?

There are lots of different games and activities which we can do at forest school which will support your child in their learning. With each class we will plan in some curriculum/topic opportunities for the given class in consultation with the class teacher. We will, at some point, have an open fire, use tools, make dens, leave trails, go on scavenger hunts, make environmental art and lots, lots more. We have plans to plant hedges, trees, flowers and other native plants as well as using more advanced tools as the resources and staff experience increase. Children are encouraged to take on leadership roles as they build their skills and ideas.