

The Valley Primary School
Forest School Curriculum Plan 2025-2026

Autumn Term – Summer Term	Week 1 Forest School Safety; Plant Identification & Boundary identification	Week 2 Using natural materials 2D Sculpture	Week 3 Using natural materials 3D Sculpture	Week 4 Den-building	Week 5 Tools	Week 6 Bushcraft
Nursery/EYFS	Forest School Safety; Plant Identification & Boundary Hunt To discuss safety rules for Forest School area. Forest school rules. To explore the area with reference to safe risk taking.	Using natural materials 2D Sculpture To be able to use senses to investigate the Forest Schools area (Touch – hug a tree; Sight – colour matching; Smell - To be able to make woodland perfume, using sticks, water and woodland materials	Using natural materials 3D Sculpture To experiment with freestanding structures. To build knowledge, to be able to use sticks to create a basic (tripod)	Den Building Den structure on a small scale (e.g. for a small soft toy), using malleable material such as playdough as a joining material. To select covering materials (e.g. leaves)	Tools To be able to safely handle & use a Bow Saw with adult support (e.g. make a wood biscuit)	Bushcraft To know how to keep safe around a fire. To sort stick sizes. To know how to ensure a fire is safely extinguished.
Year 1	Forest School Safety; Plant Identification To understand similarities and differences between tree sizes, colours and barks. To be able to identify the different parts of a tree.	Using natural materials To be able to use senses to investigate the Forest Schools area Sound – Listening Map; Taste – Woodland picnic, Touch feely bag, items like fir tree, bark, seed cases conkers, Smell, damp woodland, mosses, cut grass, barks.	Using natural materials 3D Sculpture To be able to make 3D sculpture in different areas of Forest School of an animal or insect. (mud/snow) To use found items to give characteristics of chosen creature	Den Building To be able to use sticks to create a basic (tripod) den structure on a small scale (e.g. for a small soft toy), using wire/pipe cleaners/tape, to fix them in place.	Tools To be able to safely use a Bow Saw and a Hack Saw with adult support	Bushcraft To begin to understand that fire needs fuel + oxygen + heat. To introduce flint and steel to make a spark. To use fire to cook.
Year 2	Forest School Safety; Plant Identification To know what a seed is. To know where seeds come from. To be able to name seeds. be able to identify seeds.	Using natural materials To be able to use sculpture To develop and share ideas and imagination, using colour, pattern, texture, shape and form in the development of artworks. explore natural materials – Forest Art To create tree parts artwork (lined to the work of Andy Goldsworthy)	Using natural materials 3D Sculpture To build on previous week to make sculpture 3D. To understand structures need solid/wider base.	Den-building To be able to use sticks to create a basic den structure on a larger scale (e.g. for a large soft toy), using malleable material such as playdough or wire as a joining material if desired. To select covering materials (e.g. leaves)	Tools To be able to use a Bow Saw with increasing independence. To be able to use a Bit and Brace with adult support.	Bushcraft To understand fire triangle. To know how to prepare a fire for lighting ie stick size To use stick method to cook over fire. Hygiene
Year 3	Forest School Safety; Plant Identification To do a scavenger hunt and be able to use tree and plant identification kits to identify them.	Using natural materials To consolidate prior learning on use of natural materials to create ephemeral art. To be able to create a group sculpture using natural	Using natural materials 3D Sculpture To use natural material to create hanging woven art, i.e. dream catcher (willow)	Den-building To do loop knots in order to peg out a tarpaulin shelter (premade timber- hitched line.	Tools To be able to whittle sticks using potato peelers.	Bushcraft To work in small groups with adult support to use Kelly- kettle to boil water for hot chocolate

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		resources, making contrasting concentric rings around an object. Leaf rubbing Leaf lacing. Bark rubbing.				
Year 4	Forest School Safety; Animal and Plant Identification To be able to identify woodland animals and / or birds that might be found in a UK forest	Using natural materials To select an animal as inspiration for a piece of woodland artwork. To be able to use natural materials to make animal pictures and picture frames. To be able to select woodland materials that capture the characteristics of the animal they have chosen (e.g. materials that would work well to express a fox's bushy tail / hedgehog's prickly spines. To understand how to introduce a sense of energy and movement into their animal picture.	Using natural materials 3D Sculpture To understand importance of worms in woodland environment. To make wormeries to observe worms at work	Den-building To create a supporting line for tarpaulin by using timber hitches. To use loop knots to peg out.	Tools To be able to cut wood using loppers and secateurs.	Bushcraft To begin prepare a fire site. To prepare natural equipment to be able to cook over an open fire, e.g. toasting.to independently
Year 5	Forest School Safety; Animal and Plant Identification To understand how to 'collect with respect'	Using natural materials To create a 2D puzzle or game to challenge peers. To encourage logical thinking	Using natural materials 3D Sculpture To recreate 2D puzzle or game into 3D. To be able to problem solve	Den-building To use lashing to create a freestanding shelter, without the use of tarpaulin.	Tools To be able to use a Bill Hook safely.	Bushcraft To be able to make own tinder nest by using a pencil sharpener to make shavings. To be able to make fire by friction, using flint and steel.

