



Forest School

**Intent:** Forest School is a unique method of outdoor learning. At Hartshorne C of E Primary School our aim is to encourage and inspire children through positive outdoor experiences. Children will have the opportunity to learn about the natural environment, how to handle risks and most importantly to use their own initiative to solve problems and co-operate with others. The children use full sized tools, play, learn boundaries of behaviour; both physical and social, establish and grow in confidence, self-esteem and become self-motivated.

**Implementation:** Forest School is about exploring and experiencing the natural world through practical activities. The children go out in all weathers, all year round, exploring and learning from the seasons and environment changes. Appropriate clothing will be worn and during high winds it will be considered unsafe to go into the nature area. The children's interests along with the varied natural resources in our nature area are used to stimulate creative thinking, problem solving and skill development.

One of the principles of Forest School is to promote environmental awareness and encourage sustainability. The children are taught about respect and responsibility for the world around them. Both the children and adults are encouraged to respect their environment and to be aware of conservation issues of the area around them. Encouraging children to care for the environment is an essential part of Forest School.

In order to encourage the children to look after the site we will always leave it tidy and never damage anything growing in it. We will only collect things that are on the ground and leave the area as we found it when we leave. The Forest School Leader will monitor the site so that it does not become overused.

**Impact:**

- Children will grow in confidence due to the freedom, time and space they are given in their learning at their own pace.
- Activities such as sharing tools and participating in games and activities help teach the children to work together as a group supporting each other to develop their skills.
- The sensory experiences provided by Forest School helps prompt language development. Improving communication skills has a positive effect on a child's self-esteem and is a crucial part of their development.
- The increase in outdoor activity has a positive physical impact.
- Children develop an interest in the great outdoors and respect for the environment. Encouraging children to develop a relationship with the natural world.