



Monday 17th September 2018 was the very first Forest School Session at Longwell Green School.

Forest School is an inspirational long term process where all learners have a regular opportunity to achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem through child led, holistic, hands on experiences in a natural environment using natural things. Forest School practitioners only offer opportunities, hints and supported risks to the environment and themselves.

We at Longwell Green School are very pleased to now be able to offer our children Forest School sessions. We are having 4,1 hour sessions per week and we hope that all children will get the opportunity to spend some time in the forest. The children will help maintain the forest area, plant bee and butterfly gardens and observe the creatures in the forest. Once the Forest School Leader completes her training the children will also access real tools and light fires under close supervision.

Our first topic was water tight shelter building, and all shelters were tested once complete. Some shelters were for the Rangers, others for hedgehogs, bees, mice etc. I hope you get the picture.....



The first group of Forest School Rangers have learnt the rules of Forest School really well!

"No Picky"

"No Licky"

"Careful with Ropes"

"Careful with Sticky"

(we have a special way to carefully move big sticks)

Bigger than you - takes 2

Bigger than me - takes 3

(When carrying large items).

The children also had the chance to do their own risk assessments and were fantastic at spotting possible hazards. They have shown great team spirit and I have watched them form their own, very different teams on a couple of occasions and shown some amazing collaboration.

We have a reflection the following day and these are some of the comments made:

D..... Best day ever! G..... I liked driving around in the tyre, sad because I wanted to get a little wet!
F..... stressful, but when it was done it was amazing, you have to push yourself! A..... 1-3 it was ∞
J..... Fun, but the wind was annoying! E..... Good, but I got wet! N..... We didn't get wet because we worked together as a team, otherwise my hair would be sticking up by now! E..... Good, when I didn't get wet!



Early years have a Monday at Forest School and were looking for signs of autumn, we found lots! We talked about what colours the leaves might be and why the leaves change colour and fall. We talked about the pineapples (pinecones) we found under the trees and what was inside them (seeds). The children loved holding the conkers and we talked about the job that trees do in our forest and why we need to be kind to them and sometimes give them a hug!

Lunch club have been having fun in the forest too and last week during the strong winds we tested their shelter building skills. We spent the whole lunch time in the forest adapting our shelter to ensure we could stay dry. With lots of collaboration and team work, our shelter DID successfully keep us dry.



Special thanks to Mrs Davis, Mrs Hawley, Mrs Thornell and Mrs Hatcliffe for supporting me during these first sessions, I hope they had a much fun as I did?

Regards

Mrs Bryant

Forest School Leader (in Training)