

How can I help?

- Put the dates for Forest School on your fridge/in your calendar/on your notice board.
- Make sure your child has a change of clothes and the right clothing for the weather.
- Listen to what your child is learning and feedback to us if you would like.
- Support Forest School by supplying resources such as wool, wood, ribbon, pans and utensils for mud kitchen, string, art materials, old light coloured sheets.



Health and safety.

The health and safety of all participants is central to everything undertaken within a Forest School Programme. Forest School leaders are fully trained in risk assessment and emergency first aid.

The Forest School operates under the school's policies and a handbook with all the forest school protocols is available to view on the website. Alongside this the following are completed:

- a seasonal and daily risk assessed site;
- risk assessments for activities;
- first aid and emergency equipment.

Some of the activities the children may participate in are 'higher-risk activities' (such as campfire cooking or tool use). However, these activities are not available to the children until certain behaviours and boundaries are established. Children are encouraged and supported in recognising and managing risk for themselves, through real life situations and experiences.



The Discovery School



Parent's guide to



The Discovery School
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West Malling
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What is Forest School?

The Discovery School embraces the benefits that outdoor learning experiences can have on children. Forest school is inclusive to all children. Through regular sessions of hands-on learning experiences in a natural environment, it enables children to develop physically, emotionally and creatively as well as improve their well-being, self-confidence and self-esteem.

Our aim

Forest School at the Discovery School aims to foster a relationship with nature through regular personal experiences in order to develop a long-term, environmentally sustainable attitude and practice in staff, children and the wider community. We strive for all children to be the best that they can be!

Where will Forest School be taking place?

The area that we use for our Forest School is Discovery Walk, adjacent to the school field. It is fenced and we will make sure, at every session that the children are secure in their understanding of the boundaries and of our Forest School rules. The area has been thoroughly risk assessed and this will be updated regularly.



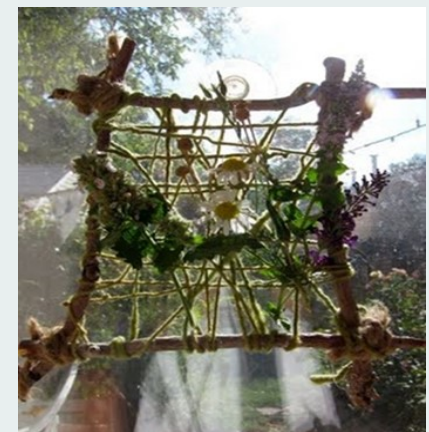
Who will be staffing the Forest School?

Mrs Chapman is a qualified teacher, the Forest School and Outdoor Learning Leader and a qualified Forest School Practitioner, Level 3. Each session will also be supported by the class teacher or TA. However, more adult helpers would be great and make it even better; so if any parents (or grandparents) who would like to help out too, they would be most welcome. If you do not have DBS clearance but are interested in helping, please ask for an application form from the office.

When will Forest School be taking place and how should the children be dressed?

Forest School will take place on a Wednesday, Thursday or Friday morning or afternoon. Each class will be taken out on a rotational basis. Please refer to the Forest School letter to see when your child's class will be involved.

Please make sure that your child has wellingtons, a waterproof coat and a pair of waterproof trousers in school. In summer, a sunhat would be advisable and in winter, a warm coat, warm socks, extra layers, a hat and gloves. A dry set of clothes is also advisable. For a full kit list refer to the letter or the Forest School webpage.



"Forest School is a feeling you can't put into words."