



Sessions are planned around the individual's and group's needs, and built upon each week. Mrs Panting, the Forest School Leader is qualified through nationally recognised and accredited training, therefore ensuring Forest School is a high quality learning experience.

The earlier sessions will concentrate on safety;

establishing boundaries and routines. As the children develop in confidence and familiarity with the environment the sessions focus on the development and consolidation of skills and understanding.



Bassingham Primary Schools, Forest School sessions will take place every Thursday so please ensure that you send your child into school with a bag full of appropriate clothing for these outdoor activities— waterproofs, wellies etc.

Many Thanks, Mrs Panting

BASSINGHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr Betts



Forest Schools

Teacher - Mrs Panting



Forest Schools A Guide for Parents



"This is the best kind of classroom,
It's a journey through time and space,
From the smallest seed to the largest tree,
This is a forest and a learning place.

This is the best kind of classroom,
Where the seasons don't happen in books.

Where the learning is watching and thinking and talking
And everyone notices, everyone looks."





What is Forest School?

Forest School has developed from the Scandinavian education system and is about children and young people building self esteem and independence through exploring and experiencing the natural world. Forest School is a long term program

delivered by trained practitioners within a natural environment (not necessarily a forest!) Each Forest School program is tailored to meet the needs of individuals within that group and is continuously developed as the children/ young people grow in confidence, skills and understanding.

The ethos of Forest Schools allows learners the time and space to develop skills, interests and understanding through practical, hands-on experiences. It also allows practitioners to step back and observe the children/young people in order to then encourage and inspire individuals to achieve through careful scaffolding and facilitating.

What benefits will my child get from participating in Forest Schools?

Forest Schools supports the holistic development of the child:

Health and Fitness - being active in an outdoor, natural environment.

Increased Emotional Wellbeing - there is research available supporting this.

Social development - communicating and negotiating with peers and adults to solve problems and share experiences.

Skills Development - developing fine and gross motor skills and coordination for real purposes.

Gaining Knowledge and Understanding - multi-sensory, real life learning.

Individualised Learning - careful observation allows adults to tailor support to children's own interests and stage of development.

Curriculum Links - Forest Schools supports many areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage framework, National Curriculum and the Every Child Matters agenda.

“Forest School is an inspirational process that offers children and young people opportunities to achieve, develop confidence and self esteem, through hands on learning experiences in a local woodland environment.”

National definition: by Forest School (England) network



What will my child be doing?

The Forest School routine varies depending on the site, however it may include; preparing to go out by dressing in outdoor clothes such as waterproofs; traveling to the site; singing special songs and sharing stories. Forest Schools will run all year round and in all weathers (unless weather conditions are dangerous). The child led ethos of Forest Schools means that once at the site the children can choose what to participate in, carefully supported and encouraged by Mrs Panting and Mrs Markham. Possible activities may include;

- Hunting for mini beasts and/or pond dipping.
- Natural Crafts - making necklaces from elder, crowns or dream catchers from willow, collages from natural materials, weaving with long grasses etc.
- Mud and clay sculptures.
- Shelter building and knot tying.
- Low tree climbing.
- Using tools for a purpose - such as peeling bark from sticks with potato peelers to make toasting forks.
- Eventually fire building and cooking on a camp fire.

Health and Safety

The health and safety of all participants is central to everything done within a Forest School programme. Mrs Panting is fully trained in risk assessment and emergency outdoor first aid. Basingham Forest School has; a Health and Safety policy in place; a seasonally and daily risk assessed site; risk assessments for activities; trained adult helpers; 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 behaviors and boundaries are established. Children are encouraged and supported in recognizing and managing risk for themselves, through real life situations and experiences.