

Woody Wanderers Curriculum Framework

Our Woody Wanderers curriculum is underpinned by the six guiding principles of Forest School practice:

1. Forest School is a long-term process of frequent and regular sessions in a woodland or natural environment, rather than a one-off visit. Planning, adaptation, observations and reviewing are integral elements of Forest School.
2. Forest School takes place in a woodland or natural wooded environment to support the development of a relationship between the learner and the natural world.
3. Forest School aims to promote the holistic development of all those involved, fostering resilient, confident, independent and creative learners
4. Forest School offers learners the opportunity to take supported risks appropriate to the environment and to themselves.
5. Forest School is run by qualified Forest School practitioners who continuously maintain and develop their professional practice.
6. Forest School uses a range of learner-centred processes to create a community for development and learning

We believe that outdoor learning is an important, and indeed, an entitlement for children to experience here at Tyntesfield as part of their education. Going outside is not a treat and not simply play for children. There is a vast bank of scientific evidence, which has proven the benefits that outdoor learning provides for children. At Tyntesfield, we teach Woody Wanderers lessons so that all the children have a chance to develop a wide range of skills that they wouldn't otherwise have the opportunity to do inside the classroom. Our Woody Wanderers sessions endeavour to create environmentally conscious citizens for the future who know that the natural world is fragile and that our behaviour has a direct impact on it.

In EYFS and Year 1, Woody Wanderers takes place weekly and is led by class teachers. Core skills and knowledge are developed and other areas of learning are woven in to the sessions to complement all areas of the curriculum. From Year 2 onwards, Woody Wanderers is led by our Forest School practitioner and supported by the class teacher. Each class has two four-week blocks in differing seasons.

Whilst we have a clear curriculum, the child led nature of these sessions (and on occasion extreme weather) means our Forest School practitioner will adapt the pace at which new skills and knowledge are introduced, however the end goals remain consistent.

We support our SEND children by providing opportunities for them to excel. Activities are adapted and a range of tools are available to support children with a range of needs, if required. Additional sessions (Branching Out) are provided to small groups of identified pupils, who require support with aspects of their social, emotional, and mental health often resulting in these children becoming leaders in their whole class Woody Wanderers sessions.

	Dens	Tools*	Fire	Knots	Swings and Zip-lines	Environment
Nursery	Know how to create imaginary dens and declare space 'a den'.	Know how to safely use: -spoons for digging -water pots -paintbrushes	Know that the fire is hot Know what a fire circle is Know to stay out of the fire circle Know that we have to put a fire out properly Know that we can keep each other safe by using fire rules Know that we can cook on the fire			Know that some animals live in the woods and that we are in their habitat Know that the woods look different at different times of year
Reception	Know how to create small scale dens and recognise the boundaries of that den.	Know how to safely use: -magnifying glasses -wheelbarrows - grabbers -binoculars -spades	Know that the fire is hot Know what a fire circle is Know to stay out of the fire circle Know that we have to put a fire out properly Know that we can keep each other safe by using fire rules Know that we can cook on the fire Know the words charcoal, flame, burn	Know how to use string or wool to loosely join materials e.g. tie a toy to a branch to make a swing, with adult support	Know how to climb on and off a tyre swing safely Follow adult guidance for bystander safety	Know how to identify common and familiar animals (e.g. pigeon, fox, squirrel) Know how to be safe around common and familiar animals Know the names of the seasons and observe the changes
Year 1	Know to use simple or natural modifications for dens for example a rope for a door or sticks propped up.	Know how to safely use: -lengths of rope for dens	Know that the fire can spread Know how to put the fire out properly (teacher modelled)	Know how to tie a simple overhand knot	Know how to choose a site for a swing	Identify the homes of common animals Know and describe seasonal changes
Year 2	Know how to create simple structures with ropes and tarps.	Know how to safely use: -scissors -string -potato peelers (whittling)	Know the safe fire position (kneeling) Know how to cook simply on a stick	Know how to tie and use a simple overhand knot	Know how to choose appropriate materials (e.g. rope) Know how to assess bystander safety	Identify common plants (e.g. ivy, bluebells, nettle, bramble) Know that some trees are evergreen

Year 3	Know how to modify rope and tarp dens with natural materials	Know how to safely use: -metal spades -sandpaper -loppers	Know how to start a fire with flint and steel Know that we can cook different foods on a stick Know 'stop, drop & roll'	Know how to use an overhand knot for a variety of purposes	Know how to test materials for rope swing Know how to assess environmental safety	Know weather changes quickly and use nature to know what the weather will do (e.g. movement and density of clouds)
Year 4	Know how to repurpose woodland and found items to enhance their rope and tarp structures	Know how to safely use: -sheath knives	Know how to confidently and independently start a fire with flint and steel Know the different conditions that could impact success	Know how to tie a timber hitch	Know how to evaluate a range of materials and identify best fit for purpose and location Know how to use coil and throw	Know and appreciate cycles in nature (e.g. daffodils) Know how to use weather to independently assess clothing needs
Year 5	Know how to create a den for purpose for example very small or very large and identify why a location is a good choice for a den	Know how to safely use: -bow saw	Know how to safely build a small fire Know that we can cook in a pot on a tripod Know we can boil water over a fire	Know how to tie and use diagonal and square lashing	Know how to choose and test knots before using Know how to choose an appropriate site for a zip wire	Use environmental knowledge to know how likely it is to see plants and animals at different points in the year
Year 6	Know how to create a den for purpose for example to provide shelter from the sun or rain and how these dens would differ in structure	Know how to safely use: -hand drills -tools for purpose	Know how to build and maintain a fire for different purposes and use different fire lays e.g. warmth and cooking Know the impact of different fuels on a fire	Know how to use and tie tripod lashings Know how to tie and use a zip line hitch	Know how to assess overall structure and safety of swing or zipwire	Know that the environment is interlinked (e.g. daisies only grow on one side of our field) Know some rare and unfamiliar species (e.g. fungi and non-native species)

* Whenever a tool is introduced, safety, care and correct usage are explicitly taught. As knowledge and skills are cumulative, children always have access to the tools that they know how to use from a previous year group.