



Wistaston Academy
Primary and Nursery School
Together We Learn • Together We Achieve

Forest Schools Overview – Totally Active

	Activities
Week 1	Map and compass skills, show the children the north point on a compass then encourage to see if they can indicate E,S,W positions. Place points in the grounds and ask them to navigate to them. Maps - go over basic features of a map, symbols contour lines etc, explain different maps, ask them to build a map of the school using natural materials. This can be scaled up or down to accommodate age groups.
Week 2	Shelter building. Select the appropriate area and build shelters using natural materials (Military kit if the area isn't finished). Fire building (using flint etc in large groups fire pit & material selection).
Week 3	Can the children think of any animals, birds or mini beasts that live in UK forests? Do they know the names given to any of their homes, or where they make their nests? For example, a squirrel's nest is called a drey, a badger lives in a sett, a fox lives in an earth and rabbits live in warrens etc. Look around for animal homes – don't forget to look up in the treetops, and down on the ground. Divide the children into small groups. Their task is to build a warm and cosy nest for a mouse on the ground. Week 2 first then they have to build a map using natural materials then point on the made map locations of a cache and send teams to different locations to find cooking and fire lighting materials.
Week 4	What Minibeasts live in the forest: Spider, Worm, Slug, Snail, Ant, Centipede, Millipede, Caterpillar, Butterfly, Woodlouse, Beetle, Ladybird, Grasshopper, Earwig, Harvestman Fly. Ask the children to identify micro-habitats – places for mini beasts to live within the forest e.g. open grassy area, fallen log, tree trunk, puddle. Explain that the Forestry Commission looks after hundreds of forests in England, and takes care to ensure that they provide lots of habitats for mini beasts and other wildlife. When areas of trees are felled (cut down), dead wood is often left, providing homes and food for beetles and other invertebrates. When new trees are planted, some open spaces are left to provide warm sunny areas for butterflies.
Week 5	Radio usage from the shelters. Teams have to direct team members to certain locations on the map using radios only.
Week 6	Recap on all of the above including: Shelter building, fire lighting, name mini beast quiz, build a mini beast den.