FOREST SCHOOL PROGRESSION OF SKILLS

ACTIVITY	PRE-SCHOOL & RECEPTION	Years 1 & 2	Years 3 & 4	Years 5 & 6
TREE CLIMBING	1: 1 guidance. jumping out with support No climbing above 1m.	1: 1 guidance. jumping out with support No climbing above 1m.	1: 1 guidance available. Adult supervision at all times. No climbing above 2m. Jumping out from no higher than 1 m.	Climb independently. Adult supervision at all times. Jumping out from no higher than 2 m.
TOOLS	Use a Bow Saw to make a tree cookie. Peelers. Fire steels. Mallet	Use Secateurs for shelter building and thinning of woodland. Use veg. peelers for developing pre-whittling skills. Hand saw. Palm drills	Use Loppers and pruning saw for thinning etc. Use Hand/Palm drills	Use Fixed Blade Knives for whittling – adult support
ORIENTEERING	Tracking Walking Boundaries	Know North, South, East and West. Make a plan of the site using natural objects.	Use a compass. Complete an orienteering course. ID animal tracks.	Design their own orienteering course. Mapping: OS Maps, drawing their own and use grid references.
RISK ASSESSMENT	Know the signals to return to base: whistle for emergency, bird call any other time.	Know what risks there are in each layer of the Woodland Set boundaries of site.	Know how to build structures safely. Know where footpaths and bridleways are.	Consolidate all prior knowledge.

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	Hand washing before eating. Fire safety Know to be in sight of the Parachute at all times (boundary). Know about strangers/visitors and to stay in pairs, not to walk off with anyone. Know where the ditch is and that at times it can fill with water. Know how to walk to site safely with High Visibility jackets.	Find hazards themselves and identify them to the class. Know how to use a range of tools safely. Know which plant species are poisonous.	Understand risks linked to cooking. Understand risks when tree climbing. Know basic first aid. Practice and role play emergency procedure.	
WOODLAND MANAGEMENT	Know the different layers of the woodland: Canopy, Shrub, Field, and Ground. Identify woodland animals: Deer, Squirrel Identify Plants: Holly, Bracken, Bramble/Nettles, Oak Tree, Bluebells	Identify Birds: Pheasant, Buzzard, and Woodpecker Identify trees: Ash, Beech, Silver Birch	Use secateurs and pruning saws to thin woodland Plant trees Identify fungi	Coppice Chestnut and Hazel Identify orchids, primroses etc (see handbook for species)
FIRE LIGHTING	Collect correct wood: tinder, kindling, bigger sticks, branches, logs. Practise using Sparkers	Know the 3 elements that keep a fire lit: oxygen, fuel, spark	Make a miniature fire in a Scallop shell and keep it going. Help with main fire	Make larger fires independently. Cook a range of foods

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	Make a fire pit Know how to extinguish a fire. Fire safety awareness/play fire safety games.	Learn different shapes of fires.	Introduce cooking	
DENS	Make mini dens for animals, or elves and ensure it is waterproof. Make class den by rolling heavy wood using co-operation.	Make group dens using a 'Lean to' style. Make Tipi style dens.	Independent building of previous types. Use tarpaulins to build dens.	Benders
PARACHUTE	Understanding visibility of Guy lines with the yellow ties.	Know how to hold out the Parachute to the correct trees for an adult to tie the Guy lines.	Know how to tie and untie Guy lines around trees, using an overhand knot to tidy away. Practice throwing over rope.	Independently put up and pack away.
KNOTS	Larks foot	Timber hitch	Use a Reef Knot, Granny knot, Overhand knot and Timber Hitch knot.	Use a Clove Hitch knot Use Square lashing and ask to learn other knots independently.
COOKING	Toasting marshmallows	Bread - flat and dampers Chocolate/marshmallow bananas Smores	Ash cakes Wild food fritters Brownie Stuffed Oranges	Hazel macaroons Tortilla pancakes Popcorn