The Big Picture

Forest School It is an ethos that promotes self-esteem, creativity, confidence and independence. It is a series of long-term sessions that build on the needs and development of the child. It is not one-off days in the woods. It enables supported risk-taking, child-centred learning, exploration and play.

Intent:

Forest School is a unique method of outdoor learning. At Woodlands our aim is to encourage and inspire children through positive outdoor experiences. Children will have the opportunity to learn about the natural environment, how to handle risks and most importantly to use their own initiative to solve problems and co-operate with others. The children use full sized tools, play, learn boundaries of behaviour; both physical and social, establish and grow in confidence, self-esteem and become self-motivated

Implementation:

There will be 8 units of learning throughout the school year. Each unit will cover different skills that the children will learn and have a go at.

Activities for Forest Schools are diverse and numerous, we are trying to create independent learners who are inspired to try out need skills and their own ideas, explore their own interests and to attempt new ideas
Some activities might include:

- Shelter building

- Fire lighting and cooking on an open fire

- Using a Kelly Kettle

- Tool use

- Rope and string work, tying knots

- Woodland and traditional craft

- Woodland management

Key assessments:

Teacher Observations/ Forest school skill set assessment

Impact:
Good: Students can have a go with verbal prompts if needed. Have a good understanding and resilience. They write with accuracy. They can articulate their ideas.

Better: Students can confidently have a go at all f/s skills, understanding what is needed to complete each skill,. Students can have their own ideas when in the outdoors.

Excellent: Students confidently engage with the most challenging f/s skills. They can demonstrate to other peers and help them complete task. They can show good independent work.