

Forest School

Forest School was an idea that was introduced to Britain in the late 1990's. With its origins in the 1980's in Scandinavia, it was considered to be an engaging way to teach and learn about the environment.

Forest School has been defined by O'Brien, L and Murray, R. (2006 p.5) as,

"An inspirational process that offers children, young people and adults regular opportunities to achieve, and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences in a woodland environment."

The Forest School approach is designed to foster the development of children's confidence, encourage them to manage and take risks with growing independence and to promote communication skills. It is undertaken outside and encourages the learners to explore and experience the vast array of resources that the natural world can offer them. It is a unique way to deliver and support many aspects of the curriculum in today's education. At Marlborough Primary School we have undertaken a more creative approach to the curriculum and the ethos of Forest School fits well with the development of active outdoor learning and engaging personal experiences.

Our trained Forest school leader is Mrs Beard who is currently teaching the Forest school programme to the year 2 class on a weekly basis. The programme has also been rolled out to KS2 - mixed year groups and this will begin again in Term 3.

Mrs Beard has run whole school Forest School activity days on Dartmoor and at Devonport Park. We are engaging in cross key stage Forest School days (initially Year 2 and Foundation 2 children) where the current Year 2 class can support other children's learning.

If you would like any further information about Forest School or would like to come along to a session please contact Mrs Beard at Marlborough Primary School.