



Forest School

Sticklepath Intent



Our curricular aims are to develop **Growing Minds** that are **Curious, Critical Communicators**.

'No one will protect what they don't care about; and no one will care about what they have never experienced' **David Attenborough**

We believe it is important for our children to care about their natural environment and experience it fully. Forest School at Sticklepath is fundamental to the heart of the school's vision, aims, attributes and values. Forest School will support Sticklepath children to develop healthy mental and physical lives through relaxing, appreciating and connecting to the natural world, building self esteem and developing a 'sense of self.'

From nursery to year 6, at the beginning of our childrens' journey through life, their gradual widening of view of the world will be reflected in their Forest School opportunities; from the concrete and immediate evidence of the senses to the more abstract and complex systems and relationships of the wider natural world. Forest School will give Sticklepath children time to 'wonder and ponder', building greater curiosity and fascination in the natural world. A sense of connection with the local and global natural environment will engender a feeling of stewardship towards their world, near and far.

Time for exploration and reflection in the outdoors will allow for children to take part in nature-inspired questioning and discussions around their observations and thoughts. In our Forest School lessons, we actively teach our children to use precise vocabulary and empower them with knowledge. We want them to feel motivated as valuable and effective agents of change when faced with the challenges and responsibilities of looking after our planet.

In their future lives of study and work in a world with ever-increasing challenges and opportunities. They will need to be able to self-organise and assess risk so that they

can progress independently with confidence. Children in our Forest School lessons are challenged to be resourceful and resilient as individuals but, most importantly, as part of a community. To rise to this challenge, they need to be able to adapt to and tolerate any social group they find themselves learning with coupled with a confidence to express themselves as individuals.