



## Keevil CofE Academy Forest School Curriculum

**“We presume children to achieve their very best.”**

*Keevil CofE Academy Mission Statement*

We know that for children to achieve their best our curriculum needs to be designed in order to enable the maximum amount of learning, through the recall and understanding of knowledge and concepts. Therefore our curriculum is organised as a progression which facilitates the re-visiting of learning through recurrent themes, such that it becomes embedded in children’s long term memory. We also understand the importance of children making connections between prior and new learning. The cyclical nature of our curriculum design, in which topics are returned to over the course of a child’s time with us, helps to enable this.

Our rationale for the teaching of Forest School and its inclusion within our core curriculum is as follows:

There is strong evidence that good quality learning outside the classroom adds much value to classroom learning. It leads to a deeper understanding of concepts that span traditional subject boundaries, and can help bring learning alive. It can be powerful and motivating for children, having real impact and credibility. Through skilled teaching, learning outside of the classroom readily becomes a stimulating source of fascination, personal growth and can lead to breakthroughs in learning. It can be a powerful way for us to develop the Keevil Characteristics (Resilience, Communication, Problem-Solving, Team-Work, Learning and Diligence) in our pupils.

**Benefits of learning outside the classroom:**

- helps to ensure that children are successful learners enabling children to develop knowledge and skills in ways that add value to their everyday learning experiences.
- enables children to be confident individuals and impacts positively upon young children’s attitudes beliefs and self-perceptions.

- contributes towards creating independent learners with high self-esteem and self-sufficiency.
- can have a positive impact upon children's behaviour.
- has a positive impact upon children's personal and social development.
- can bring about community cohesion and allow children to develop as responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to their wider community.
- can create pride in the school and wider community and promote community involvement, renewing children's pride and creating a sense of belonging and responsibility.
- raises learners' attainment, promotes and strengthens communication skills, team work and sense of cohesion.

We make sure our Forest School Curriculum is rooted in the vision and ethos of the school, through ensuring that as well as delivering scientific knowledge and skills lessons also develop the Keevil Characteristics:

Children learn knowledge about the natural world, and understanding of the impact people can have on this. They develop their communication and team-work skills through exploring, collaborating, working and playing with others. Children show resilience through learning new skills and undertaking activities that they may find challenging. They develop their problem-solving skills through tasks they are set and outcomes they are asked to deliver. Finally the children have the opportunity to further their diligence by working to the best of their ability.

## Keevil CofE Academy Forest School Knowledge Progression

Theme	EYFS/KS1	Lower KS2	Upper KS2
<b>Natural World</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They talk about the features of their own immediate environment and how environments might vary from one another.</li> <li>• Children know similarities and differences in relation to living things.</li> <li>• They make observations of plants and animals and explain why some things occur, and talk about changes.</li> <li>• <b>Be able to identify different natural objects.</b></li> <li>• <b>Be able to identify different features of natural objects.</b></li> <li>• identify seasonal and daily weather patterns</li> <li>• observe changes across the four seasons</li> <li>• identify and name a variety of common wild plants, including deciduous and evergreen trees</li> <li>• explore and compare the differences between living things</li> <li>• identify that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited and describe how different habitats provide for the basic needs of different kinds of animals and plants</li> <li>• identify and name a variety of plants and animals in their habitats</li> <li>• <b>identify and name the most common wild flowers and trees in the local area</b></li> <li>• <b>identify and name some common birds and animals found in the local area.</b></li> <li>• <b>Identify and name some common mini-beasts found in the local area</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• explore and use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local environment</li> <li>• <b>identify and name a variety of mini-beasts found in the UK</b></li> <li>• <b>identify and name a variety of animals and birds found in the UK</b></li> <li>• <b>identify and name the most common wild flowers, plants and trees in the UK</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution.</li> <li>• describe how living things are classified into broad groups according to common observable characteristics and based on similarities and differences, including micro-organisms, plants and animals</li> <li>• give reasons for classifying plants and animals based on specific characteristics</li> <li>• <b>recognise and name a wide variety of wild flowers, plants and trees, identifying why they are found in different locations</b></li> <li>• <b>recognise and name a wide variety of mini-beasts found in the UK, identifying why they are found in different locations</b></li> <li>• <b>recognise and name a wide variety of animals and birds found in the UK, identifying why they are found in different locations</b></li> </ul>
<b>Sustainability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• understand what they need to do and why to look after plants and animals in our forest school area and local area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand what they need to do and why to look after our local environment</li> <li>• Understand the impact of what can happen if the local environment is not looked after and the threats to our environment</li> <li>• Know positive actions they can take to improve the local environment and work within the community to improve this.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the different approaches and strategies needed to look after different environments in the UK and globally.</li> <li>• Understand the consequences of not looking after specific environments, the impact this has on other environments and the inter-connectedness of the natural world</li> <li>• Know positive actions that they can take and support to improve different environments around the world.</li> <li>• Know how to work with other organisations to improve the local environment.</li> </ul>
<b>Keeping Safe</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Know the appropriate clothing to wear for different activities and weather</li> <li>• Know the rules to follow when at Forest School</li> <li>• Understand the need to follow instructions when using simple tools</li> <li>• Know how to behave safely around a fire</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Select appropriate equipment for the conditions and activity</li> <li>• Explain why rules for behaviour are necessary</li> <li>• Know how to keep themselves safe when using simple tools</li> <li>• Know how to light and extinguish a fire safely</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Select appropriate equipment for a range of conditions and activities</li> <li>• Know how to keep themselves safe when using a range of equipment and tools</li> <li>• Know how to light, control &amp; extinguish a fire safely</li> </ul>

## Keevil CofE Academy Forest School Skills Progression

Theme	EYFS/KS1	Lower KS2	Upper KS2
Whittling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use a traditional peeler under close supervision</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use a whittling knife under close supervision</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use a bush knife under close supervision</li> </ul>
Wood Cutting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use secateurs with a 1:1 or 1:2 ratio</li> <li>Introduced to using a Junior hack saw</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loppers to be used with a 1:1 ratio</li> <li>Junior hack saw to be used 1:2 ratio</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secateurs to be used under close supervision</li> <li>Junior hack saw to be used independently</li> <li>Bush knife to be used for splitting wood with 1:1 ratio</li> </ul>
Making Holes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use a hand drill 1:1 ratio</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use a hand held drill independently</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use a hand drill independently</li> </ul>
Knots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Half hitch (shoelace knot)</li> <li>Slip knot</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Slip knot (knitting knot)</li> <li>Reef knot</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clove hitch</li> <li>Reef knot</li> </ul>
Shelters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lean-to</li> <li>Den building kit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>free-standing lean-to</li> <li>A frame shelter using the knots taught</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>natural shelters with a design providing optimum protection from the elements</li> <li>erecting tarps using the knots taught</li> </ul>
Fires	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>observe a fire</li> <li>recall how to build a fire</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>build a fire</li> <li>be able to light &amp; extinguish a fire safely</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>use a striker to safely light a fire &amp; control and extinguish a fire safely</li> <li>Toast on a fire</li> </ul>

## Keevil CofE Academy Forest School Curriculum Overview – 2 year rolling programme

<b>EYFS/KS1</b> <i>Year 1</i>						
Keevil Characteristics						
<b>Lower KS2</b> <i>Year 1</i>						
Keevil Characteristics						
<b>Upper KS2</b> <i>Year 1</i>						
Keevil Characteristics						

**EYFS/KS1**  
*Year 2*

Keevil  
Characteristics

**Lower KS2**  
*Year 2*

Keevil  
Characteristics

**Upper KS2**  
*Year 2*

Keevil  
Characteristics