

Forest School Plan 2026 – 2027

Year Group	Half Term (Wednesday)
5	Autumn 1
Early Years	Autumn 2
4	Spring 1
2	Spring 2
1	Summer 1
6	Summer 2

Year 3	
Half Term	Forest School/ Commando Joe's (Monday)
Autumn 1	Forest School
Autumn 2	Commando Joes
Spring 1	Forest School
Spring 2	Commando Joes
Summer 1	Forest School
Summer 2	Commando Joes

Children have the opportunity to access our Forest School area each Wednesday afternoon, providing regular opportunities to learn, explore and develop through outdoor experiences. Each session offers a range of **open-ended 'wild activities'**, such as bug hunting, digging, den building and exploring, allowing children to make choices based on their interests and curiosity.

Alongside these child-led opportunities, a **weekly teacher-led activity** is planned to reflect the changing seasons, the natural environment and significant events within the calendar. This provides children with opportunities to develop new skills, knowledge and understanding while building confidence and independence in the outdoors.

Our Forest School approach promotes **choice, exploration, creativity and problem-solving**, while supporting children's physical, social and emotional development and encouraging a positive connection with the natural world.



Date	Event	Activities
September 2026	International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies (7 September)	Create simple wind streamers and observe wind direction around the site. Compare areas with more and less vegetation and discuss how plants help clean the air. Sit quietly for a sensory "sound map" activity, recording natural and human-made sounds.
	Autumn Equinox (22 September)	Measure and compare shadows at different times of the day. Start individual nature journals to record seasonal changes. Collect and identify fallen leaves, seeds and natural treasures.
October 2026	World Animal Day (4 October)	Search for signs of wildlife such as feathers, tracks and nibbled leaves. Build small habitats for invertebrates using sticks, bark and leaves. Create clay animal models inspired by species found on site.
	International Walk to School Month (October)	Map routes around the forest school area using natural markers. Estimate and measure distances travelled during woodland walks. Complete a woodland scavenger hunt focused on observation skills.
	Fungi and Autumn Changes	Conduct a fungi spotting walk, observing without touching or picking. Create bark and leaf rubbings. Build dens using fallen branches and natural materials.
	Halloween	A spooky sensory walk, listening for sounds and looking for signs of autumn. Create pumpkin faces using natural materials such as leaves, sticks and stones. Make natural potions using mud, water, leaves and berries (for observation only). Create a woodland monster using sticks, leaves and other fallen natural materials. Go on a Halloween scavenger hunt to find items of different colours, textures and shapes.
November 2026	National Tree Week (late November)	Identify deciduous and evergreen trees around the site. Measure tree trunk circumferences and compare sizes.

		Create tree faces or natural artwork using fallen materials.
	Remembrance Day	Create poppies from natural materials, such as red leaves, petals and sticks. Hold a quiet minute of reflection outdoors, listening to the sounds of nature. Create a Remembrance Garden using natural materials to represent peace and hope. Make poppy artwork using clay and natural objects to create patterns. Collect and arrange natural materials to create a peace symbol or memorial artwork.
	Preparing for World Soil Day	Compare soil samples from different areas of the site. Investigate which soil type holds the most water. Search for soil organisms using magnifiers.
	World Soil Day (5 December)	Build soil layers in clear containers using materials collected on site. Investigate leaf litter decomposition. Create wormeries to observe how worms improve soil.
December 2026	Winter Solstice (21 December)	Observe how daylight and shadows change during the day. Create natural decorations using evergreen materials found on the ground. Make simple bird feeders using pine cones, seeds and string.
	Christmas	Create Christmas decorations using pine cones, sticks, leaves and other fallen natural materials. Make natural wreaths by weaving flexible twigs and adding leaves and seed heads. Create woodland reindeer or other festive characters using sticks and natural materials. Make bird feeders using pine cones and suitable bird food. Complete a winter scavenger hunt, searching for evergreen leaves, pine cones and other seasonal treasures.
January 2027	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Big Garden Birdwatch (late January)	Count and identify birds visiting the forest school area. Make bird feeders using recycled materials. Create bird hides from natural materials and observe quietly.
	Winter Wildlife	Search for animal tracks, nests and feeding signs. Build shelters for insects using logs, leaves and sticks.

		Compare evergreen and deciduous trees.
February 2027	World Wetlands Day (2 February)	Investigate damp areas and microhabitats around the site. Create simple food chains using species found locally. Compare plants and animals found in wet and dry areas.
	Darwin Day (12 February)	Match animals to their adaptations using natural objects. Compare different seed shapes and discuss how they disperse. Play camouflage games using natural surroundings.
March 2027	World Wildlife Day (3 March)	Carry out a biodiversity survey of the site. Create bug hotels using natural and recycled materials. Design simple food webs based on species observed.
	International Day of Forests (21 March)	Identify native trees using buds, bark and leaves. Create woodland art inspired by natural patterns. Build miniature woodland habitats.
	Spring Equinox (20 March)	Record signs of spring in nature journals. Observe emerging buds and flowers. Compare daylight and shadow lengths.
	Easter	Hold a nature egg hunt, using painted wooden eggs or clues hidden around the site. Create nests using twigs, grass, leaves and other natural materials. Go on a signs of spring walk, looking for buds, flowers, insects and new growth. Create Easter-themed natural artwork, such as chicks, eggs or rabbits. Investigate different bird habitats and discuss what birds need to build a safe nest.
April 2027	Earth Day (22 April)	Carry out a litter pick within the school grounds. Sort collected waste into recyclable and non-recyclable items. Create artwork using natural and recycled materials.
	City Nature Challenge (late April)	Photograph and identify plants, insects and fungi. Create tally charts of species observed.

		Compare biodiversity in different areas of the site. Observe and record pollinators visiting flowers. Plant bee-friendly flowers or scatter wildflower seeds. Build bee hotels using bamboo canes and natural materials.
May 2027	World Bee Day (20 May)	
	International Day for Biological Diversity (22 May)	Compare biodiversity in sunny and shaded areas. Create simple food chains and food webs. Carry out a minibeast hunt using magnifiers.
June 2027	World Environment Day (5 June)	Conduct a sustainability audit of the forest school area. Build habitats using reclaimed natural materials. Create pledges to protect the environment.
	World Oceans Day (8 th June)	Investigate how litter can travel through drains and waterways. Sort natural and human-made materials and discuss their impact on habitats. Create a "protect our waters" piece of natural artwork.
	Minibeasts and Pollinators	Go on a minibeast hunt and record different species found. Observe insects around flowers and identify how they help plants. Create a pollinator-friendly area using suitable plants and natural materials.
July	Summer Wildlife and Habitats	Carry out a wildlife survey and compare findings with earlier in the year. Observe and record different habitats around the site. Create simple food chains using plants and animals found outdoors.
	Celebrating a Year Outdoors	Look back through nature journals and identify seasonal changes across the year. Create a collaborative piece of natural artwork celebrating favourite Forest School memories. Allow children to choose and lead their favourite outdoor learning activities from the year.