

FOREST SCHOOL



Here at Parkwood Academy, we want to give all children the best possible opportunities and experiences. To this end we run a Forest Schools provision. This is led by an experienced level 3 practitioner who is able to plan and deliver fantastic experiences for children to learn in the outdoors.

Forest school is an inspirational learning process that is centred around the child. It offers opportunities for holistic growth through regular sessions, supporting play, exploration and supported risk taking. It develops confidence and self-esteem, through learner inspired, hands-on experiences in a natural setting. The process supports and enables more than knowledge gathering, it helps learners develop socially, emotionally, spiritually, physically and intellectually. This style of learning is particularly beneficial to our children's well-being. Our Forest School provision also helps to develop children's speech and language

The children have enjoyed engaging in various forest school activities. We have been exploring the environment, foraging for natural resources and creating our own pictures. The children have also enjoyed creating their own dens with natural resources they collected whilst on their forest school adventure. The children in Reception class have been exploring the Forest School area, searching for mini-beasts with the bug hunting kit and following the dinosaur trail.

Our intervention groups have been busy working together to build dens and have enjoyed swinging in the hammock and balancing on the rope walk. They have made some beautiful hapa-zome ("leaf print") pictures and wood cookie pendants and wood cookie boats (complete with stick masts and leaves for sails). We also discovered some fascinating fungi that looks just like a human ear (jelly ear fungus)!

