

What benefits will my child get from participating in Forest Rangers?

Forest Rangers supports the holistic development of the child:

Health and fitness - being active in an outdoor, natural environment.

Increased emotional well-being and self-esteem.

Social development - communicating, and negotiating with peers and adults to solve problems and share experiences.

Skills development - developing fine and gross motor skills and co-ordination for practical purposes.

Gaining knowledge and understanding - multi sensory, real life learning.

Individualised learning - continual observation allows adults to tailor support to children's own interests and stage of development

Curriculum Links - Forest Rangers supports many areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework. It can also really enhance science and art in the National Curriculum.

What will my child need?

Children need to bring their own waterproof suit, wellies, hats and gloves to be kept at school in a named Forest Rangers bag. It is also useful for children to have a spare warm sweatshirt in their Forest Rangers bag to wear on very cold days - children soon get miserable if they are cold. Also a spare pair of socks is great in case they get wet.

On Forest Ranger days, children come to school wearing their PE kit. Children **will** get messy so this is important! All children should have their arms and legs covered for every session (brambles, stings, nettles, sunburn). Please ensure children are wearing shoes which they can take off and put on themselves and have long hair tied back for safety reasons.



Forest Rangers

A Guide for Parents



What is Forest Rangers?

Forest Rangers developed from Forest School which is a Scandinavian education. It is where children and young people build self-esteem and independence through exploring and experiencing the natural world.

The ethos of Forest Rangers allows learners the time and space to develop skills, interests and understanding through practical, hands-on experiences. It also allows practitioners time to step back and observe the children in order to then encourage and inspire individuals to achieve through careful scaffolding and facilitating.

Where will my child be going?

Forest Rangers at The Coppice Primary takes place in a small woodland on our school field. The children are therefore able to walk to Forest Rangers. The 'Base Camp' area is sheltered with seating at the top of the site (which can be seen from the Key Stage 2 playground). The site has been fully risk-assessed and all the trees inspected and made safe by qualified tree surgeons. The health and safety of all participants is central to everything within Forest Rangers. Our Forest Rangers handbook details operating procedures and policies, including all safety aspects.

Forest Rangers rules:

No licking – Don't put anything in your mouths as they will have germs on them and may be poisonous to touch and eat.

No picking – as things are growing and will die if we pick them.

Stay inside the boundaries – as we may get lost and the teachers won't know where we are.

Stay away from rubbish – tell an adult who will then clear it away.

Drag sticks – as they may be heavy and it is safer to drag them behind you.

Wash our hands when we return to the classroom.

Ofsted state that schools should "ensure that their curriculum planning includes sufficient well-structured opportunities for all learners to engage in learning outside the classroom as a key, integrated element of their experience" (Ofsted, Learning outside the classroom).

What will my child be doing?

Forest Rangers will run all year round and in all weathers (unless weather conditions are dangerous). The child-centred ethos means that once at the site, children largely choose what to do, carefully supported and encouraged by adults.

Forest Rangers activities include:

Playing woodland games.

Exploring the woodland.

Hunting for mini-beasts.

Natural crafts e.g. collages from natural materials.

Mud sculpture and mole hill castles.

Shelter building and knot tying.

Climbing trees.

Using tools for a purpose – such as using mallets to build a den.

Fire making and cooking on a camp fire.

The Forest School Leader is qualified through nationally recognised and accredited training, ensuring Forest Rangers is a high quality and safe learning experience. The earlier sessions will concentrate on safety, establishing boundaries and routines. As children develop in confidence and become familiar in the environment, the sessions focus on the development of skills and understanding. Children are encouraged to take risks safely.