



‘Small School, big heart learning and growing together’

Forest School at St Mary’s

Our Vision Statement:

At St Mary’s we are a community, a family and a team. We aim to provide our children with the exciting opportunity to love, appreciate and value the importance of protecting our beautiful, natural environment. At St Mary’s we want children to become independent, confident, resilient thinkers and learners who possess a love of playing and exploring as well as a lifelong learning and development of the whole self.

At Forest School all children are viewed as:

- equal, unique and valuable
- competent to explore & discover
- entitled to experience appropriate risk and challenge
- entitled to choose, and to initiate and drive their own learning and development
- entitled to experience regular success
- entitled to develop positive relationships with themselves and other people
- entitled to develop a strong, positive relationship with their natural world

Forest School learning at St Mary’s is achieved through the following:

- a long-term process of regular sessions, rather than one-off or infrequent visits; the cycle of planning, observation, adaptation and review links each session.
- using a natural environment to support the development of a relationship between the learner and the natural world (the wildlife area at the bottom of the field).
- using a range of learner-centred processes to create a community for being, development and learning.
- promoting the holistic development of all those involved, fostering resilient, confident, independent and creative learners.
- offering learners the opportunity to take supported risks appropriate to the environment and to themselves.