



Shinewater Primary School

Outdoor Learning in Reception

Swale Academies Trust

Overview

At Shinewater Primary School we are very lucky to have an outdoor classroom which is situated in our woodland area. The children spend one morning a week learning outside with their teacher and TA. The hedgehog class goes out every Tuesday morning and the Squirrels every Friday morning. In addition to this, they have another hour in the week with our head of outdoor learning. The outside offers natural beauty and we make good use of this to support children's learning and their emotional development.

The children will come to school dressed in old clothes applicable to the weather. On very cold days children may need extra layers of clothes for example 2-3 jumpers. It is important children are warm enough to learn they can always take off extra layers should they become too hot.

The hedgehogs and squirrel classes have a session a week with our specialist outdoor learning teacher.



What do the woodlands offer?

- The woodlands offer a unique teaching and learning environment that is constantly changing and which captures children's curiosity, stimulates their senses and nurtures their well-being.
- We believe in the philosophy that underpins the Forest School movement, where every child is encouraged and inspired to develop their personal, social and emotional skills through participation in tasks and activities which are motivating and achievable. These can be set-up as child led activities, group work or 1:1 co-adventurer tasks, all of which include hands on experiences and outcomes discovered by the child.



At our Forest School all participating pupils are viewed as...

- Equal, unique and valuable
- Competent to explore & discover
- Entitled to experience appropriate risks and challenges
- 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 others
- Entitled to develop a strong, positive relationship with the natural world



What are our goals?



Through a set of regular outdoor learning sessions, we aim to build emotional intelligence, self-awareness, an ability to recognise and manage emotions, develop resilience and empathy.

It is hoped that these skills will be transferred to the classroom and support children in all areas of their learning and emotional development.

