Walkeringham Primary School
EYFS Forest School Curriculum

Forest School Vision

At Walkeringham Primary School, we believe Forest School provides children with opportunities to develop curiosity, confidence, resilience and independence through regular experiences in our natural environment. Through carefully planned outdoor sessions, children learn by exploring, investigating, creating and taking appropriate risks within a safe environment.

Our Forest School curriculum supports the EYFS Statutory Framework and promotes all seven areas of learning while fostering a lifelong love of nature and the outdoors.

Our unique environment includes:

- Grassed outdoor areas
- A variety of mature trees
- Fruit trees
- Raised planters and growing beds
- Wildlife habitats
- Seasonal changes
- Natural loose parts
- Views of surrounding farmland and agricultural landscapes

Intent

Children will:

- Develop a strong connection with nature.
- Become confident explorers and problem-solvers.
- Learn to manage appropriate risks safely.
- Respect living things and care for the environment.
- Build resilience, perseverance and teamwork.
- Develop vocabulary linked to the natural world.

- Observe seasonal changes over time.
- Understand where food comes from.
- Develop practical outdoor skills.

Safety and Risk Management

Children are explicitly taught how to identify and manage risks throughout every Forest School session.

Children learn to:

- Walk safely around the site.
- Carry sticks safely.
- Use natural resources responsibly.
- Respect living creatures.
- Wash hands after outdoor learning.
- Wear suitable outdoor clothing.
- Recognise boundaries.
- Stop immediately when the Forest School signal is given.
- Use tools only when developmentally appropriate and under direct adult supervision.
- Assess simple risks themselves ("Is this branch safe?" "Is this log slippery?")
- Help care for the outdoor environment.

Links to the Walkeringham Ways

Forest School provides rich opportunities for children to demonstrate the school's values:

- **I am Curious** – asking questions, exploring and investigating the natural world.
- **I am Independent** – making choices, solving problems and developing practical outdoor skills.
- **I am Resilient** – persevering with challenges such as den building, planting and outdoor tasks.

- **I am Responsible** – caring for living things, respecting the environment and using equipment safely.
- **I am Respectful** – working collaboratively, valuing others' ideas and treating nature with care.
- **I am Truthful** – reflecting honestly on experiences, making sensible decisions and reporting hazards to adults.

Yearly Overview

Half Term	Theme
Autumn 1	Becoming Forest School Explorers
Autumn 2	Trees and Seasonal Changes
Spring 1	Animals and Wildlife
Spring 2	Growing and Gardening
Summer 1	Minibeasts and Habitats
Summer 2	Nature Detectives and Outdoor Challenges

Substantive and Disciplinary Knowledge

Half Term	Nursery - Substantive Knowledge (What children know)	Nursery - Disciplinary Knowledge (What children do)	Reception - Substantive Knowledge (What children know)	Reception - Disciplinary Knowledge (What children do)
Autumn 1 Becoming Forest School Explorers	The Forest School area has boundaries. Trees, plants and animals are living things. We must care for nature.	Explore using senses. Follow simple safety rules. Notice familiar features. Begin to talk about what they see.	Forest School has rules to keep everyone safe. Living things need food, water and shelter. Natural materials have different properties.	Observe carefully. Ask questions. Explain simple observations. Follow agreed safety procedures independently.
Autumn 2 Trees and Seasonal Change	Trees have trunks, branches and leaves. Leaves change during autumn. Fruit grows on some trees.	Compare leaves. Collect natural objects. Describe colours and textures. Sort objects.	Trees can be deciduous or evergreen. Trees change through the seasons. Different trees produce different fruits and seeds.	Identify similarities and differences. Classify leaves. Record observations through drawings and discussion.
Spring 1 Animals and Wildlife	Birds, insects and animals live outdoors. Animals need homes.	Search for signs of wildlife. Observe animals quietly. Use simple vocabulary to	Different animals live in different habitats. Habitats provide food, water and shelter. Birds	Investigate habitats. Compare where animals live. Make simple

	We should not disturb habitats.	describe what they find.	and insects help the environment.	predictions about where wildlife might be found.
Spring 2 Growing and Gardening	Seeds grow into plants. Plants need water, sunlight and soil. We can help plants grow.	Plant seeds. Water plants. Observe changes over time. Talk about what they notice.	Plants have roots, stems, leaves and flowers. Different plants grow in different conditions. Food can be grown locally.	Observe growth over time. Compare plant growth. Explain what plants need. Care for the raised beds and planters.
Summer 1 Minibeasts and Habitats	Minibeasts are living things. They live in different places. Some insects help plants.	Search safely for minibeasts. Handle living things carefully. Compare different insects.	Minibeasts have different features and habitats. Habitats meet the needs of living things. Humans can improve habitats.	Classify minibeasts using simple features. Create habitats. Explain why animals live in particular places.
Summer 2 Nature Detectives and Outdoor Challenges	Nature changes throughout the year. We can use natural materials to build and create. We keep ourselves safe outdoors.	Build with natural materials. Solve simple problems. Work with others. Reflect on favourite learning.	Seasonal changes affect plants and animals. Natural resources should be used responsibly. We can assess simple risks before acting.	Plan and evaluate outdoor challenges. Solve problems collaboratively. Assess risks independently. Explain learning using increasingly precise vocabulary.

Vocabulary

Nursery: tree, leaf, bark, stick, flower, seed, bug, bird, weather, grow, fruit, roots, soil, safe, explore.

Reception: habitat, minibeast, deciduous, evergreen, blossom, compost, pollination, observe, investigate, predict, compare, classify, environment, seasonal change, risk.

Autumn 1

Theme: Becoming Forest School Explorers

Week Learning

1 Forest School rules, boundaries and safety

2 Exploring our outdoor environment

3 Using our senses outdoors

Week	Learning
4	Natural treasure hunt
5	Building with natural materials
6	Reflection and nature journals

Autumn 2

Theme: Trees and Seasonal Changes

Week	Learning
1	Meet our school trees
2	Leaves and bark investigation
3	Fruit trees around school
4	Tree rubbing and observational art
5	Animals that live in trees
6	Seasonal changes

Spring 1

Theme: Animals and Wildlife

Week	Learning
1	Bird spotting
2	Making bird feeders
3	Animal tracks hunting
4	Making hedgehog homes
5	Making drinking stations for insects
6	Helping wildlife (litter pick)

Spring 2

Theme: Growing and Gardening

Week	Learning
1	Exploring raised beds
2	Planting seeds
3	What plants need
4	Looking after plants
5	Observing growth
6	Harvesting if appropriate

Summer 1

Theme: Minibeasts and Habitats

Week	Learning
1	Bug hunt
2	Habitats
3	Sorting minibeasts
4	Building bug hotels
5	Life cycles
6	Review

Summer 2

Theme: Nature Detectives and Outdoor Challenges

WALKERINGHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL
think smart be kind

Week Learning

1	Den building
2	Natural obstacle course
3	Team challenges
4	Nature art
5	Celebration picnic
6	Forest School awards