



Forest School Newsletter

Spring Term 1 - 2024

Welcome Back

Welcome to your seasonal Forest School Newsletter. This is an exciting time of year outdoors as we slowly say goodbye to Winter and welcome the Spring!

Unfortunately, there has been some significant storm damage in our Forest School, and we have lost one of our biggest Beech trees, as it was toppled in the storm. Phill has removed what was left and the site has been cleared. However, out of disaster springs new life, as this has lifted the light somewhat and signs of Spring that we couldn't see before, are sprouting out of the ground near where the beech tree was. Crocuses and snowdrops!

If you have any questions, or have experiences of the outdoors with your children you would like to share, please contact me;

Isobel.jellyman@saxon.set.org

Thank you,
Isobel Jellyman, Forest School Lead



This Season...

Spring is a beautiful time of year to be outdoors, although it can be colder than expected sometimes, so we can continue to snuggle in the yurt with the wood burner roasting marshmallows and enjoying hot chocolate treats. The pupils will learn about the season of Spring and what to expect. They will be supported to explore and investigate using all of their senses what Springtime means, how we celebrate it and what happens to the trees, animals and how we can help to look after the site during this time.

We will be looking for signs of Spring on the ground, in the canopy and in the air as we start to welcome back the birds, but we have had regular visits from a robin and some blackbirds throughout the winter, and on the ground, the green shoots of crocuses, snowdrops and daffodils are showing. It's still important for us to keep feeding the birds and watching out for any other signs of other life such as rabbits, foxes, hedgehogs and toads, as they will be emerging as the weather warms up.



Sensory Learners

Making music in the forest school for Winter and Spring using crunchy leaves and experiencing the frost and maybe the snow. Look for signs of Spring, birds and new shoots.

They will also experience sensory stories and Forest themed sensology with objects to touch, taste and smell based on the theme of Winter and Spring

Links to learning

Science—habitats, the Seasons, animals, conservation

Communication and Language—story telling, labelling, signs and symbols

Art—creating art using natural materials

Understanding the world— caring for the environment, changes in the seasons, festivals and celebrations

PSHE—making positive relationships

Suggested ideas at home

Go for a Winter listening walk, stroll through the park or woodland area near you and stop for a minute, what can you hear?

Take photos of a Winter scene.

Light a campfire outside.

Collect leaves and put them into ice in the freezer.

Please add photos to EFL of your adventures in Autumn!

Prepare an advent wreath using what you can find out and about.

Weather



As the weather for now is still quite cold, and forecasters are talking snow at some point, a blanket would be advisable. Wellies where appropriate, and if you are able to supply waterproof clothing this would be great, although I do have a limited supply here. If the temperature drops below 8 degrees, pupils will be having forest school sessions either in the yurt or in the forest school classroom, with activities based on what they would be doing outdoors.

Stories and Websites

Suggested websites and books for ideas:

[21 Fantastic Spring Activities To Get Your Kids Outdoors \(growinghealthykids.co.uk\)](http://growinghealthykids.co.uk)

TV Programmes:

Springwatch

