

Forest School Overview Thomas Hall School 2023-2024

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| Early Years and Key Stage 1 |
| Key Stage 2 |
| Key Stage 3 |
| Key Stage 4 |

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| **Year**  | **Autumn 1** Identification& Harvest | **Autumn 2** Bushcraft & Survival | **Spring 1** Campfire Cooking | **Spring 2** Woodcraft | **Summer 1** Climate & National heritage visit | **Summer 2**Creative Arts |
| **Reception** | - Welcome, familiarising with the woodland.- Basic wildlife identification- Sitting spot – senses awareness- Bug Hunting- Magnifying glass- Scavenger hunt – textures- Free exploration Active PE element | - Fire lighting observation- Foraging for kindlingStick sizes – mice, rats cats tails- 3 stick tipee shelter- Mushroom hunting‘The mushroom hunt’ book- Observational walkUse Scissors to cut string and with support tie a knot on end of their bird feeders. (Cherrios threaded onto string)Active PE element | - Create own recipe in mud kitchen- Boil a kettle – hot chocolates- Cooking on a stick – marshmallows- Pan cooking – popcorn- Foil cooking – chocolate bananasActive PE element | - Nature walks- Basic tool demonstration- Use Hand drills to make holes to make threading discs · -Use loppers to make marshmallow sticks with support- Decorate tree cookie necklaces- With support can thread and tie the string on their wood cookie necklace.- Collecting and sorting | - Introduce concepts of climate, and the environment exploring the forest environment, observing plants, animals, and the changing seasons.Discuss different weather conditions (sunny, rainy, windy) and how they feel. Active PE element | Summer Wet on wet painting, yellow, blue – Identifying the colour green.- Exploring textures and patterns found in the forest, encouraging tactile exploration.- Textured rubbings- Leaf mandalas,- Flower crowns |
| **Year 1** | - Sitting spot – senses awareness- Basic animal and plant identification - Magnifying glass- Scavenger hunt – shapes and textures- Free exploration- Apple tree andPolytunnel harvest Active PE element | - Fire triangle- Kindling sorting- Den building - Build a den for imaginary scene – spaceship/boat/treehouse- Mushroom identification- Observational walk- Build a class raftActive PE element | - Design and create a recipe to serve to class- Boil a kettle – hot chocolate- Cooking on a stick – stewed apple apples- Cooking with foil – chocolate bananasActive PE element | - Introduce tool safety rules- Use Hand drills and bow saw to make tree cookie necklace ·- Use secateurs with support to make willow charcoal - Can explain how to use tools safely with some supportActive PE element | - Develop an understanding of local ecosystems, their interdependence, and the importance of sustainability and how it relates to our daily lives.-Wildflower seed plantingActive PE element | - Summer Wet on wet painting, red, yellow, blue – Mixing prime colours free style- Create homemade clay from forest materials- Create clay sculptures inspired by the forest- Leaf mandalasActive PE element |
| **Year 2** | - Bug observation bottles- Shrinking forest game- Animal tracks- Scavenger hunt for specific natural objects- Free exploration- Apple tree andPolytunnel harvestActive PE element | - Prepare a fire for lighting- Flint and steel intro- Fire extinguishing- Den building for a small animal - Observational walk- Mushroom hunt & paint- Discuss mushroom roles- Group raft building to send down the streamActive PE element | - Design and create a 3-course menu for your restaurant- Cooking on a stickApple/MarshmallowsFoil Cooking – chocolate bananasPan cooking – popcornActive PE element | · - Use bow saw and drill to make a spinner ·- Use secateurs and loppers to chop sticks for natural art · - Can explain how to use tools safelyActive PE element- | - Create art and crafts using recycled materials.- Discuss how climate change can affect wildlife and habitats.Active PE element-Wildflower seed planting | - Summer Wet on wet painting, red, yellow, blue – painting a woodland creature- Explore storytelling in nature through art, combining creativity and natural surroundings.- Large-scale land art installation.- Natural colour chartActive PE element |
| **Year 3** | - Woodland observational walk – seasonal changes.- Apple Harvest- Leaf ID & Pressing- Identification flashcards- Focus on shape, size, colour texture- Forage, observe, sketchApple tree andPolytunnel harvestActive PE element | - Fire lighting and safety-Introduce a flint and steel with cotton wool- Den building- Build a shelter using natural materials to fit one person- Raft building using stringActive PE element | - Create 3 course mud kitchen meal & chalk board menu- Different methods of cooking:- Boiling water for hot chocolates- Cooking with a stick - marshmallows / damper bread- foil cooking – chocolate bananasActive PE element | - Use mallets and knives for whittling to make a wooden person · - Can explain the 'blood bubble'Can use a chisel for pattern carvingActive PE element | Woodland seasonal observational walk- Discuss energy conservation and reducing waste.- Create posters for school site displayActive PE element-Wildflower seed planting | - Summer Wet on wet painting, red, yellow, blue – painting a tree- Environmental Art and Awareness- Introduce environmental artists - Andy Goldsworthy- Natural hanging mobiles- Faces in the trees using clayActive PE element |
| **Year 4** | - Woodland observational walk - seasonal changes.- Leaf I.D – Pressing & Drawing- Identification flash cards- Focus on common trees – oak, birch, pine, beechForage, observe- Apple tree andPolytunnel harvestActive PE element | - Fire lighting and safety- Build a fire and maintain for 5 minutes- Den building with tarp- Introduce basic knots – half hitch- Making natural charcoal Active PE element | -Different methods of campfire cooking-Children assist with preparing and cooking -Forage for kindling.-Fire lighting with flint and steel-Stovetop - Pancakes-Skillet Pan - Popcorn-Foil – chocolate bananasActive PE element | · Explore with use of flints for flint whittling to make a wand · Can use saws/loppers to make an elder necklace-Use whittling knives to sharpen a marshmallow stick- Can use a chisel for pattern carving- Class bench carving.Active PE element | - Woodland seasonal observational walk - Explore effects of temperature changes, extreme weather events, or habitat loss.- Explore resilient species that can adapt to changing conditions.- Habitat restorationActive PE element-Polytunnel seed planting | - Summer Wet on wet painting, red, yellow, blue – painting a landscape- Explore photography to document the natural world.- Kite paper lanterns- Gods eyesActive PE element |
| **Year 5** | - Identification flash cards- advanced leaf identification techniques. – field guides- Locate a variety of common tree species on site – map and field guides- Apple tree andPolytunnel harvestActive PE element | Woodland observational walkFire lighting and safety with natural tinder and explore different fire structures.Den building with Tarpaulin shelterintroduce basic knots – Use a Trucker Hitch to put up a tarp for shelterActive PE element | -Different methods of campfire cooking-Children assist with preparing and cooking -Forage for kindling.-Fire lighting with flint and steel- Foil – chocolate bananas- Skillet pan – pancakes- Pan – popcorn/nettle teaActive PE element | - Can explain the 5 safety rules of tool use- Use a whittling knife to carve knomes for the younger children- Use a hand axe and mallet to chop wood into kindlingActive PE element | - Woodland seasonal observational walk - Renewable Energy Exploration, Discuss solar, wind, and hydroelectric power- Posters depicting their vision of a sustainable world.-Polytunnel seed plantingActive PE element | Summer Wet on wet painting, red, yellow, blue – painting a layered landscape- Create their own sculptures using natural materials.- Natural weaving looms- Theatrical performancesActive PE element |
| **Year 6** | - identify a range of evergreen, deciduous, coniferous and broadleaf trees.Fiels guides, site maps, - Apple tree andPolytunnel harvestActive PE element | - Woodland observational walk- Fire lighting and safety- Advanced fire lighting, Make charcoal from cloth for fire lighting- Understand the role of a fire in survival situations.- Tarp shelters Use Trucker Hitch and bowline to put up an angled shelterActive PE element | - Different methods of campfire cooking- Stovetop – pancakes- Dutch oven – Crumble-Children assist with preparing and cooking- Active PE element | - To be able to use a Bow Saw, loppers, whittling knife independently.- To be able to use an axe to split wood into small splints for kindling,Active PE element | - School site eco awareness action project- How can we do better as a school to look after our environment?-Polytunnel seed plantingActive PE element | Summer Wet on wet painting, red, yellow, blueTheatrical performanceActive PE element |
| **Year 7**  | Identify own class tree speciesAcer / Holly- History of the woods at Thomas Hall walk- Estimate the age of the trees usingFCE calculation.Polytunnel and apple tree harvest | Group rotation of 2 workshops:Fire lighting- repare kindling for fire- Use charcoal cloth tinder- Maintain for 15 minutes- Extinguishing effectivelyTarpaulin Shelters- Knots – timber hitch, truckers hitch and bow line.- Erect an A frame tarpaulin shelter | Explore different methods on cooking on a campfireWork In groups to prepare the food, build the fire, assist with cooking the food, serving and cleaning.-on a stick -in foil,-Skillet pan-Dutch ovenEnjoy a group meal around the fire.Active PE element | Engage in woodworking and safe tool use by creating wooden mallets in pairs, emphasizing safety, craftsmanship, and teamwork.Working in small groups, rotating through each stage of the process. | Dartmoor National Park educational visitTBC | 3D art installations using a selection of art mediumsClay, natural resources, recycled materials, fabrics,  |
| **Year 8** | - Identify own class tree speciesLarch / MapleHistory of the woods at Thomas Hall walkSite Survey group- Polytunnel and apple tree harvest | Group rotation of 2 workshops:- Advanced fire lighting- Independently prepare kindling for fire- Use charcoal cloth tinder- Maintain for 15 minutes- Extinguishing effectively- Knots – timber hitch, truckers hitchTarpaulin shelters- Erect an A frame tarpaulin shelter to fit your team under. | Explore different methods on cooking on a campfireWork In groups to prepare the food, build the fire, assist with cooking the food, serving and cleaning.-on a stick-in foil,-Skillet pan,-Dutch ovenEnjoy a group meal around the fire. | Engage in woodworking and safe tool use by creating a birdhouse. Working in small groups to design, build, decorate and hang in the woods. | Dartmoor National Park educational visitTBC | TBC |
| **Year 9** | - Identify own class tree speciesJuniper/AspenHistory of the woods at Thomas HallWhole Site species Survey- Polytunnel and apple tree harvest | Advanced fire lighting- Independantly prepare fire pit, - Charcoal fungus tinder, with Flint and steel- Maintain for 30 minutes. - Cook Marshmallows on own fire.Tarpaulin Challenge- Knots – timber hitch, bow line, truckers hitch- Build an A frame shelter with consideration for rain fall direction. | Explore different methods on cooking on a campfireWork In groups to prepare the food, build the fire, assist with cooking the food, serving and cleaning.-on a stick-in foil,-Skillet pan,-Dutch ovenEnjoy a group meal around the fire. | - Engage in woodworking and safe tool use by creating a 3-legged stool.- Work in small groups to design, build and decorate a 3-legged stool.- Tools used- Drill, shaving horse & draw knife, carving chisel.  | Dartmoor National Park educational visitTBC | TBC |
| **Year 10** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Year 11** |  |  |  |  |  |  |