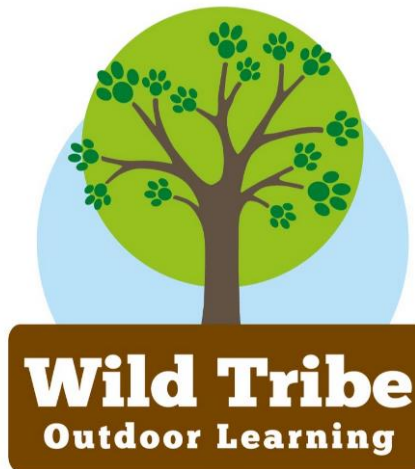




# OUTDOOR LEARNING A GUIDE FOR PARENTS



# WHAT IS OUTDOOR LEARNING?



Outdoor Learning has been based on the principles of Wild Tribe which was developed from the Scandinavian education system and is about children and young people building self esteem and independence through exploring and experiencing the natural world. Wild Tribe is a long-term programme delivered by trained practitioners within a natural environment (not necessarily a forest!) Wild Tribe is a scheme of Outdoor Learning.

Wild Tribe has been developed by teachers and practitioners working alongside each other to ensure that units of exploration have been developed, which meet the needs of all learners and meets the requirements of the National Curriculum.

Each outdoor learning session is tailored to meet the needs of individuals within that group and is continuously developed as the young people grow in confidence, skills and understanding hands-on their exploration.

The ethos of outdoor Learning allows learners the time and space to develop skills, interests and understanding through practical hands-on experiences. It also allows practitioners to step back and observe the young people to then encourage and inspire individuals to achieve through careful scaffolding and facilitating. Wild Tribe has been developed based on the principles of Forest School but links much more with the curriculum.

# WHAT BENEFITS WILL MY CHILD GET FROM OUTDOOR LEARNING?



Outdoor Learning supports the holistic development of the child:

- Health and fitness – Being active in an outdoor, natural environment.
- Increased emotional wellbeing – There is research available supporting this.
- Social development – Communicating and negotiating with peers and adults to solve problems and share experiences.
- Skills development – Developing fine and gross motor skills and coordination for real purposes.
- Gaining knowledge and understanding – Multi-sensory, real-life learning.
- Individualised learning – Careful observation allows adults to tailor support to children's own interests and stage of development.
- Curriculum Links – Wild Tribe supports many areas of the National Curriculum.

# WHAT WILL MY CHILD BE DOING?



The Outdoor Learning routine varies depending on the site; however it may include:

- Hunting for minibeasts and/or pond dipping
- Natural crafts – making necklaces from elder, crowns or dreamcatchers from willow, collages from natural materials, weaving with long grasses, tree cookies, etc
- Fire building and cooking on a campfire
- Mud sculptures
- Tree climbing
- Using tools for a purpose e.g. using a knife to whittle wood to make a marshmallow stick, using a saw to cut wood to the correct size for a stick man.
- Activities linked to English, maths, science and topic work
- Den building
- Using a Kelly Kettle to make hot chocolate

Classes across the school will start to take their lessons outdoors. For example, your child may be taught maths outdoors one day, this is due to the outdoors being a classroom as well as our indoor one.

# WHAT DOES MY CHILD NEED TO BRING?



The children must bring:

- Long trousers
- Long sleeved tops
- Waterproof jacket
- Wellington boots (old trainers)
- Hat (wooly or sun)
- Gloves / Scarf (weather permitted)
- Suncream (Summer)
- Water bottle (name clearly labelled)

Please make sure your child has their hair tied back into a ponytail or bun.  
No jewellery should be worn – in guidance with the school policy.

# HEALTH AND SAFETY

- The health and safety of all children is central to everything done within a Wild Tribe programme. The Wild Tribe leader is fully trained in risk assessment and emergency outdoor first aid. Every outdoor Learning session will have: a health and safety policy, a risk assessed site, risk assessments for activities, first aider and first aid kit and emergency equipment.
- Some of the activities the pupils may participate in are 'Higher risk activities (such as campfire cooking and use of tools). However, these activities are not available to the pupils until certain behaviours and boundaries are established. Pupils are encouraged and supported in recognising and managing risk for themselves, through real life situations and experiences.
- **Where will the pupils be going?**
- The Wild Tribe area is located at the back of EYFS classrooms in the Forest area.

