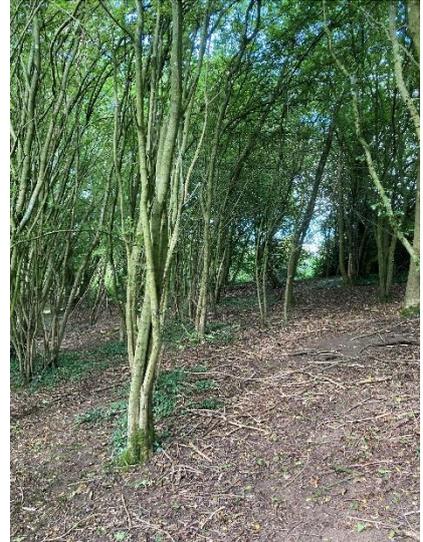


## Cranham Forest School Parent Information Sheet:



Our Forest School is part of the Cotswold Commons and Beechwoods National Nature Reserve.  
**CRANHAM COMMON**

It consists of an area of around 1/2 acre of woodland with a variety of different trees, bushes, and plants. There are pathways through a large variety of different trees and plants. There is also a meeting area which consists of a sitting area made from old fallen trees. The Forest School is surrounded by fences and boundary ropes.

We will also be visiting the Common to look at the local wild plants and Painswick Stream to explore the insects and plants you find in stream/pond life.

### The Forest School Experience

What makes Forest School unique is its emphasis on learning outside of the traditional classroom and having the freedom to explore the ever-changing environment. The children learn informally about nature through being out in the woods. For some, being outside seems more natural than the classroom and 'touches something deep' within the children. Nearly all aspects of the curriculum can be taught outside, stimulating the imagination, and bringing subjects to life in a real context. Indeed, in such a way as to stimulate all their senses and building firm foundations for further learning and enhancing their awe and wonder of the world around them.

In Forest School, we emphasise high standards of behaviour at all times. As all school staff and parents working together for the benefit of all the children in our care, the need to maintain clear guidelines is essential so that we are able to provide a stable and caring environment for all concerned.

### Our Aims

- To encourage a calm, purposeful and happy learning environment within our Forest School.
- To foster positive, trusting, caring attitudes towards everybody and everyone is valued.
- To provide opportunities for children to develop their independence, self-discipline, and sense of responsibility towards themselves and others.
- To develop a consistent approach for promoting positive behaviour throughout our Forest School.

- To establish procedures and strategies which determined a clear and consistent approach to challenging behaviour.
- To establish a consistent approach to behaviour that reflects the caring Christian ethos of the school through our school values.

## We follow the Forest School Principles in our Sessions.

- Principle 1: Forest School is a long-term process of frequent and regular sessions in a woodland or natural environment, rather than a one-off visit. Planning, adaptation, observations, and reviewing are integral elements of Forest School.
- Principle 2: Forest School takes place in a woodland or natural wooded environment to support the development of a relationship between the learner and the natural world.
- Principle 3: Forest School aims to promote the holistic development of all those involved, fostering resilient, confident, independent, and creative learners.
- Principle 4: Forest School offers learners the opportunity to take supported risks appropriate to the environment and to themselves.
- Principle 5: Forest School is run by qualified Forest School practitioners who continuously maintain and develop their professional practice.
- Principle 6: Forest School uses a range of learner-centred processes to create a community for development and learning.

**Mrs Katy Smith**

**Level 3 Forest School Leader**

I have been running a Woodland Classroom for the pupils at Christ Church C of E School since 2006, My aim for Forest School sessions is to share my love for the outdoors by teaching the children about their local environment. I enjoy teaching them about the local flora and fauna that are all around us and are part of the British Isles. I am hoping to introduce some tool skills which will include using the correct tool for the correct job, and learning how to use these tools safely and independently.

I will be planning sessions that explores the local area and also include the school's termly topics and values.

I believe that all children can learn to enjoy the outdoor space around them, they can learn through exploring the woodlands, common land and pondlife that is in their local area.

If you would like to learn more information please take a look at the Forest School Hand Book that will be in the school office.

