

Forest Experience (half day)

Key Stage 1

Summary of Day	
<p>Explore Cedar Woods, our forest school area, with a range of activities, including bug hunting, woodland crafts, team games, building shelters, making tree spirits in the woods, and weather-permitting, sing songs around a camp fire.</p>	
Learning objectives	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To explore Cedar Wood and carry out activities as a group • To observe and identify minibeasts in their natural habitat • To work as a team to play team-building games • To make crafts using natural materials • To build shelters safely • To enjoy the campfire safely observing safety rules carefully 	
Key Vocabulary	
Minibeasts Bug hunting Shelters Woodland crafts	Red dragon Green dragon Safety Teamwork
Prior Learning	
<p>No prior learning is essential for children to take part in this day. The focus is on exploring a range of activities in Cedar Wood.</p>	
Example outline of the day	
Approx 10 am	Arrive / Introduction to Gatton / Safety talk Explanation of activities
10.15 – 10.40	Walk to Cedar Woods Circle time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roll out a log seat to make a circle • Ice breaker activity – stick rhythms and introducing ourselves • Beating sticks and following leader in a line to see where

	<p>activities and boundaries are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline of activities and Cedar Wood and activity specific safety talk
10.40 – 11.25	Groups explore the activities in Cedar Woods. Activities include: bug hunting, making tree spirits, making woodland crafts, building shelters for humans and animals and team games.
11.25 – 11.45	Learn camp fire safety rules and sing songs together. Put the fire out safely as a group. Roll log seats back and leave the woods as we found them.
11.45 – 12.00	Walk back to the cabin.

Assessment Opportunities

Gatton Staff will assess progress throughout the day by open ended questioning and plenary session.

- Can the children identify minibeasts using ID keys?
- Can the children demonstrate good teamwork?
- Can the children use natural materials to make woodland crafts?
- Can the children work together to build shelters safely?
- Can the children enjoy the campfire safely observing safety rules carefully?

Information for the group leader

- Outdoor clothing & sturdy footwear / wellies are advised
- Please note this day will go ahead in most weather conditions. However alternative bad weather activities are available at the Centre if necessary.
- Centre Risk Assessments are available for those who come on a pre visit, these may be used to write your own risk assessments in accordance with your schools requirements.

Post Visit learning opportunities

Children could write a recount of their forest school experience. Children could write a thank you letter describing their favourite parts of the session and why.

Differentiation	Access	Adult Participation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults to encourage participation and give support as appropriate • Specific adjustments can be made to suit individual needs in conjunction with the class teacher 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large worksheets can be provided with prior notice. • Different learning styles considered throughout the day. • Please inform us in advance if any of your students have limited mobility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults to encourage participation and give support as appropriate during practical tasks. • Adults to accompany each group during the activities.

Resources

All resources for the session are provided by Gatton Park.