Let Nature Be Your Teacher

- William Wordsworth

Forest School

and Outdoor Learning at Ilchester Community Primary School

Welcome to Our Forest School





Our Forest School Site

At Ilchester Community Primary School we are very fortunate to have a large, wild area that we are working to develop into a Forest School site. The site will have different zones for learning, all of which will be carefully planned to work with the environment, allowing nature to thrive. The site will consist of a wilding meadow area, a small woodland area for shelter building and an outdoor classroom area with a wooden cabin, furniture and a fire circle.





We are committed to providing our children with regular opportunities for outdoor learning. These opportunities will allow our children to learn, grow, and thrive in an outdoor environment that fosters curiosity, resilience, and a lifelong love of the natural world.

Our Vision

To inspire learners through hands-on experiences in nature, promoting confidence, independence, and wellbeing.

Why is outdoor learning so important to us?

When children learn outside, they develop problem-solving skills, resilience, and independence through real-world experiences that cannot be replicated in a classroom. Research shows that learning outdoors, amongst nature, encourages creativity and boosts mental and physical health for our children. We believe every child in our school deserves the chance to connect with nature, discover their capabilities, and grow through meaningful, joyful outdoor learning opportunities.

Core Principles and What We Offer

Core Principles	**What We Offer**
Child-Centered Learning: Whole-Class activities based on children's needs and interests.	Regular Outdoor Learning Sessions: Timetabled throughout each term for every department within the school.
Holistic Development: Supporting physical, emotional, social, and cognitive growth.	Skills Development: Fire lighting, cooking, shelter building and nature crafts.
Connection with Nature: Encouraging respect and responsibility for the environment.	Curriculum Links: Teachers plan sessions to support children's learning in school subjects like science, art, and geography.
Risk and Challenge: Safe opportunities for managed risk-taking to build resilience.	Inclusive Approach: Suitable for all abilities and backgrounds.
Community and Collaboration: Fostering teamwork and communication skills.	Individualised learning opportunities for pupils with a range of SEN.

Benefits for Learners

- Increased confidence and self-esteem.
- Improved physical health and wellbeing.
- Enhanced problem-solving and creativity.
- Stronger social and communication skills.
- Deepened understanding and love of nature and sustainability.

Safety and Sustainability

Our trained Forest School leaders ensure all activities are risk-assessed and environmentally responsible. We follow best practices for safeguarding and sustainability.

Forest School Leaders

At Ilchester we have four members of staff with a **Level 3 Forest School Practitioners Award** who are qualified to oversee the development of the site, plan and run Forest School programmes and activities.

Miss Bush – Key Stage One Lead

Miss Bush is responsible for outdoor learning across the school and will be teaching Forest School activities with select groups of children as well as working with class teachers to ensure all children are accessing the Forest School site and taking part in structured outdoor learning opportunities on a regular basis. Miss Bush is also overseeing the development of the Forest School site.

Mrs King – Deputy Head Teacher, SENCO and DSL

Mrs King will be working alongside Miss Bush to develop the Forest School site and ensure accessibility for all children.

Mrs Lambe and Mrs Suter– Early Years Practitioners

Mrs Lambe and Mrs Suter will be working with our Pre-School staff to plan regular outdoor learning activities using the Forest School site

Forest School Timetable and What to Wear

Discover the joy of learning outdoors whilst dressing appropriately.

Forest School and Outdoor Learning happen in all weathers and in all seasons, so being dressed appropriately is essential for the children's comfort and the school's risk assessment.

It is important that the clothes the children wear will protect them from the weather and activities as well as guarding them against natural environment considerations such as insect bites and stinging nettles. Therefore, in all seasons, the children must wear long trousers.

Please ensure your child comes to school with a pair of wellies (recommended even when it is dry) or substantial shoes that may get muddy! Children will also need a waterproof coat.

Sun hats and sunscreen are advised during warmer seasons.

If you are unable to provide any of these items for your child, please let your child's class teacher know and we will be happy to provide them with spares.







Each half-term parents will be informed via ParentMail when their child(ren) will be visiting the Forest School site. All children will attend outdoor learning sessions at the Forest School site every half-term.

Autumn Term 2026

EARLY YEARS FOREST SCHOOL VISITS				
Monday	**Tuesday**	**Wednesday**	**Thursday**	**Friday**
				Pre-School 0930-1100
				Every Friday

KS1 FOREST SCHOOL VISITS				
Monday	**Tuesday 29th Sept**	**Wednesday**	**Thursday**	**Friday**
	Veritas 0930 - 1030			
	Luna 1100 - 1200			
	Apollo 1330 - 1430			

Monday	**Tuesday**	**Wednesday 21st October**	**Thursday**	**Friday**
		Veritas 0930 – 1030		
		Apollo 1100 – 1200		
		Luna 1330 - 1430		

KS1
Years One and Two
Week beginning 28th September and Week beginning 19th October

KS2 FOREST SCHOOL VISITS				
Monday	**Tuesday**	**Wednesday 30th Sept**	**Thursday 1st October**	**Friday**
		Libertas 0930 – 1030	Neptune 0930 – 1030	
		Minerva 1100 - 1200	Jupiter 1100 – 1200	
		Vulcan 1330 - 1430	Juno 1330 - 1430	

Monday	Tuesday 20th October	Wednesday	Thursday 22nd October	Friday
	Libertas 0930 – 1030		Neptune 0930 – 1030	
	Juno 1100 – 1200		Minerva 1100 – 1200	
	Jupiter 1330 - 1430		Vulcan 1330 - 1430	
KS2 **Years Three – Six** Week beginning 28th September and Week Beginning 19th October				