

*"Sometimes we go outside and do our work.
We read stories and even do some experiments. It's fun!"*

Outdoor learning – a new experience at St Andrew's



Forest School

*I really love going to our Forest School.
Someone found a badger's skull. We made
gyrocopters and then we were filmed for
the television – it was cool!*

The modern world is very good at shielding us from the realities of life and a good education is one that is able to break out of a cosy vacuum of safety and lack of adventure. The Forest School project, a new initiative at St Andrew's, offers a wonderful opportunity in this respect.

Virtually all curriculum subjects can be taught whilst at Forest School. The children have opportunities to

learn new skills such as woodcarving, cooking and shelter building using different tools and equipment necessary for undertaking forestry projects. They learn how to minimise and manage risks, something that children have very little opportunity for nowadays.

By combining natural resources with the children's own interest we are able to stimulate imagination and

creativity whilst helping develop investigative, social and communication skills, all of which aid development of thinking, confidence and self esteem.

Working in the Forest School allows children to experience all areas of the Foundation Stage of the National Curriculum in a fun and non-threatening way where no-one fails.

Outdoor classroom

The Pre-Prep Outdoor Classrooms offer children free-flow access to wonderful areas within the grounds of the school. Here children can work, investigate and experiment outside the normal indoor environment.

It is well known that all children benefit from more time outdoors. This time aids their emotional and social development as well as their learning. It is also critical for physical health.

The Forest School, a hidden 'oasis' full of wildlife and plants, is located opposite the main site of St Andrew's

During outdoor lessons children use a safe grassed area which they reach via a sensory path and a 'rickety rickety bridge'. Here they take part in role play and storytelling.

Working in the outdoors forms a vital part of the curriculum at St Andrew's as it gives the children different environments and opportunities for learning.