



Outdoor and Outings Policy

We acknowledge the importance of outdoor play for children. They need to fill their lungs with fresh air and have the space to develop their gross motor skills and extend their learning experiences outside of the setting.

Aim

We aim for each child to spend at least some of their morning and afternoon at pre-school playing outside. We actively encourage them to experience the seasons and their natural environment by organising activities that will promote this.

Methods

- We avoid taking children out in heavy downpours but you may see us out in light drizzle.
- If children get wet outside we will make sure they are changed into dry clothes as soon as possible.
- Please make sure that you ALWAYS send your child in clothes that will keep him/her WARM and DRY. If we feel that your child is not wearing clothes that will keep him suitably warm we will find something extra from our spare clothes supply. We will discuss this with you.
- We have lots of wellies but if your child does not like to wear ours can you ensure they have their own for every session.
- During periods of strong sun, please follow our Sun Protection Policy

Some kinds of outdoor play can get very messy so we ask that your child is sent in wearing clothes that are easy to wash. We don't encourage apron wearing because we feel they get in the way so things can get a little mucky. Children are encouraged to take risks in their play but these are controlled and rules are important. We frequently remind children of the rules of their garden play space. A member of staff will always be in the garden if children are playing there.

We may venture out into our local environment and these informal excursions are just as important to the children as the more formal planned trips further afield. Children will be encouraged to wear high visibility jackets. The adult to child ratio will be at least 1 to 4 but may be higher if we are walking with younger children or children with additional needs. We will also consider the combination of children in the group.

We always bring the mobile and first aid kit with us and will have risk assessed the route previously. Adults will be spaced front, back and throughout the group.

When we go on outings beyond the village we aim for a ratio of 1 to 2 or 1 to 3 (age and dependant on group of children). Trips will be risk assessed and parents will have been previously notified of our intentions. High vis jackets will be worn by staff and children.

We take safety very seriously at pre-school and understand the importance of discussing road safety with the children regularly, especially before any excursions.

Other Outdoor Activities

As part of our continuous provision, activities such as Forest School and Wood work will be offered. These activities are risk assessed and documentation kept in the Health and Safety File in the pre-school room.

During woodwork activities, the adult to child ratio will be 1:2 to ensure adequate supervision and support is provided.

Forest School sessions will be led by a fully trained and insured Forest School Leader and the ratio will be no more than 1:4 with consideration to the age and stage of the children's level of development.