



## Programme for Schools 2019 - 2020

### About Skylarks

Skylarks Forest School is a place for children to develop a sense of self, to connect with each other and the natural world. It provides opportunities to achieve, take risks, develop confidence, work as a team and problem solve in a natural environment.



Children use full sized tools as well as making and using fire to cook. They play, learn boundaries for behaviour and grow in self-confidence. Forest School provides a unique learning environment in which the holistic development of the child is at the centre of practice.



Two Forest School Leaders are on site for each session so we can accommodate full classes of up to 30 children. Our leaders all fully trained in Forest School leadership and are either qualified teachers or teaching assistants within Stockport MBC. They hold up to date DBS checks, first aid certificates and public liability insurance. They bring a wide range of experience and expertise to the sessions.

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### Our Site

We run our sessions in Hampers Wood; a large, private woodland within the Lyme estate. It is walled all the way around and has a stream running through it.



There are a variety of activities on site. We have hammocks, rope swings, a balancing slack line, a mud kitchen, rope ladders and den building. We also have two log circles. The log circle is the meeting point and can be completely covered if rain is forecast. The fire pit is at the centre of the log circle. A fire is lit during each session and provides a focal point at base camp for the group as well as a warm drink and campfire snack. There are toilet facilities close to the car park on arrival and a toilet tent on site. We advise that you and your group bring enough snacks and drinks for your visit, but we do provide hot and cold drinks all day.

### Tailoring your Visit

We can include a wide range of craft and tool use activities for your session. The crafts could include clay work, felting, experimenting with natural dyes, pewter casting, large and small-scale natural artwork. The children can also use tools to make a range of items including medals, woodland spinners and boats. We would recommend a site visit prior to your group attending where we can discuss these options with you and decide what would work best.



We can offer an enhanced nurturing approach to your visit by focussing on team building, confidence building, emotional development, communication and social skills. We are keen to tailor your visit to the needs of your group so please do let us know if you would like the session to adopt a particular focus.





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### Timings

Our school sessions take place on Thursdays. Timings are flexible to suit the needs of your group but at least two hours on site is recommended. We offer morning or afternoon sessions which allow for two hours on site. Alternatively, we can provide full day sessions running, for example, between 10am and 2pm. This works well for initial taster sessions but also provides the best value for money for longer-term programmes.



### Pricing

One-off taster sessions are available. The greatest benefits of forest school are obtained through a longer-term programme. We offer discounted rates for block bookings, for example, book five sessions and the sixth is free. These sessions could occur weekly, fortnightly or monthly. Please contact us to discuss options and availability.

1 x Forest School session - £300.

6 x Forest School sessions £1500.

Coach parking - £25 per visit / mini bus parking - £12 per visit / **Free** for National Trust Members.

**“The Skylarks team are exceptional with children of all ages, guiding them safely through creating sparks, lighting fires, woodwork skills and going on bear hunts!”**

*Helen Hayes – Nursery Manager*

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### Additional Information

- We provide full and comprehensive site and activity risk assessments. If you are a Stockport-based school, you are obliged to submit your own water risk assessment (relating to the stream running through the site) to Stockport Council prior to your visit.
- You are welcome to come and visit us prior to booking and chat over options.
- We ask you to read and agree to our booking conditions. These will be forwarded when you request a booking but can also be found on our website.
- The correct ratios of adults to children must be met for your group. This should not include the two forest school leaders who will facilitate your session. There is no charge for any of the adults on site.
- To get the most out of your visit we advise that a maximum of 30 children attend in any one visit. This ensures a ratio of one leader to 15 children.
- The site is accessible via an undulating footpath and takes 10-15 minutes to reach from the car park. All members of the group must be able to make this journey on foot, unfortunately it is not suitable for wheelchairs.



### Contact Us

Skylarks Forest School is a partnership with National Trust Lyme. All correspondence for your forest school visit should be directed via:

email: [skylarksforestschool@gmail.com](mailto:skylarksforestschool@gmail.com)

website: <https://www.skylarksforestschool.co.uk/>

Call: Jennie Plumb on 07908 279828