

## Forest School Sessions

### *Run on Thursdays (am)*

We believe that the outdoor environment is equally, if not more important in facilitating children's learning. Children benefit from experiencing the natural elements as well as from the increased space that the outdoors allows. We exploit the woodlands around us when planning for learning, making full use of the wide and varied natural resources around the setting.



We plan for literacy and numeracy activities in the outdoor environment by providing opportunities for refining gross motor skills, creating mud models, building dens incorporating problem solving, thinking & reasoning, mark making and drawing in the soil, which form the basis of skills required for later handwriting. We explore mathematical concepts in the natural world e.g. shape, measurements, quantity, position where children can work and play on a larger scale.

Although all of this is available, the main planning revolves around the individual child's interests. An essential part of exploratory play involves an element of risk. Allowing children to take acceptable risks enables them to develop new skills and increases their ability to independently judge risks. Without such an opportunity they will lack the experience and skills to



distinguish between levels of risk or fail to develop the necessary skills to perform tasks competently.



At Cherry Blossom we provide challenging play opportunities for children to develop skills and confidence and through thorough risk assessment of activities provide a safe environment in which they can take an acceptable level of risk. We support children in learning how to use equipment competently and safely. Rather than eliminating all risks we ensure that children do not take unnecessary risks and through close supervision manage any potential risk.