

# The London Acorn School.

Subject overviews  
Forest School



Term	Class/Year group	Subject area
Autumn	Class 1 (Year 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Old Apple Tree Man story : Kindness, food webs, structure of flowering plants. Wassail Song. Using all senses in the woods, with leaf art, wild foraging, making tripod shelters (lavvu). Reflection : what makes me happy in F S ? Empathy with non-human : understand/discuss hibernation.</li> </ul>
Spring	Class 1 (Year 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Barkie and Leafa show their patch of land. ID broadleaf plantain, its structure &amp; healing properties. What is mud? What does it do? Compare 2 habitats – riverbed and leaf litter. ID water shrimps &amp; woodlice. Imbolc weaving with natural materials. Whittling, sawing. Basic fire skills.</li> </ul>
Summer	Class 1 (Year 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Story of Tamlin. Potions and perfumes. ID herbs Summer mandala, ground art, flour labyrinth and / or fire to mark Beltane and solstice. Weave crowns using natural materials. Observe bodily movement of various invertebrates. ‘Adopt’ a small &amp; a large tree, compare and contrast, log their changes.</li> </ul>
Autumn	Class 2 (Year 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Empathy and self-care : Story of Fog – friendship. Use soap from horse chestnut leaves, make shelters for animals – dead-hedges, hedgehog homes. Foraging for firewood. Carrying sticks safely. Practise safe fire technique, make Dragon Leaf spiral at equinox.</li> </ul>
Spring	Class 2 (Year 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Name of the Tree (Bantu) I D cleavers as a spring tonic. Make wreath-based rafts. Physical challenges : explore crossing river, climbing, balancing. ID leeches, water mites. Learn the stop-cut, for notches/tent pegs/decoration.</li> </ul>
Summer	Class 2 (Year 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Song : Dem Bones ! Compare skeletons of different vertebrates, obs classification invertebrates/vertebrates, use of ground art, song. Bat &amp; Moth game. Extract pigments from stone/charcoal and use for ‘rock paintings’. ID elder wood, make beads, use for crafting dragons, necklaces etc.</li> </ul>
Autumn	Class 3 (Year 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Story : The Little Grey Men – what do we need for survival? Whittle toasting stick, toast apple slices on fire. ID forage for sedge and birch twigs, use for weaving. More dead-hedges, shelters for non-humans.</li> </ul>
Spring	Class 3 (Year 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gather nettles, learn uses for humans and non-humans.</li> <li>Observe flowering of small and large plants in spring. Relate to pollination. ‘ice windows’ plant sculptures at imbolc. Eggs made in ground art. Food web game including spider/crustacean/insect categories.</li> </ul>
Summer	Class 3 (Year 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effect of invasive species on riverbank structure – ID and remove Himalayan Balsam. Bat (echolocation) game. Weave midsummer crowns, make mandala. Whittle, drill and knot mini sail boats, test position/weight/height of leaf sails; test on river.</li> </ul>
Autumn	Class 4 (Year 5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Story : The Hunter and the Wolf – positive connections. Make tarp shelters, rope swing, learn basic knots. Continue seasonal arts and obs of familiar plants. Deciduous/coniferous.</li> </ul>
Spring	Class 4 (Year 5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stick bivouacs if sufficient materials in woods. Suspend hammocks plus tarp shelters. Make birch brush brooms, use foraged wild garlic for pesto. Note asexual reproduction of plants, e.g. split aloe pups, chives.</li> </ul>
Summer	Class 4 (Year 5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weave willow hotplates, dreamcatchers. Crush mussel shells : calcium soil mulch – note our need for calcium in diet. ID mayfly larvae, lifecycle of dragonfly.</li> </ul>
Autumn	Class 5 (Year 6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Story : Wolves Make Rivers – trophic cascade, effects of large mammals on a landscape. Autotroph/heterotroph. Weaving with diverse twigs, boats, small shelters, Catalan tension tray.</li> </ul>
Spring	Class 5 (Year 6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Observe lichens, fungi -simple plants, symbiosis. Make bender shelters, bowline knot. Uses of forked branches for hooks, supports etc. Woodland structure – 2D or 3D ground art version.</li> </ul>
Summer	Class 5 (Year 6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Story : Tamlin – peacefulness in the woods. Make homes for solitary bees. Conkers for laundry cleaning. Continue sawing, drilling. Learn the spiral cut for decorative bark. Dance the rotation of earth in relation to sun/summer</li> </ul>

