Forest School Skills Progression

Skill	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Fire	 Move around fire pit safely Can gather firewood Toast marshmallow with support 	 Recall fire rules Get a spark with flint and steel Toast a crumpet/piece of toast with support. 	 Know fire triangle Light cotton wool with flint and steel Say how to extinguish a fire Prepare damper bread to cook on the fire with support. 	 Light fire using flint and steel Extinguish fire safely with support Prepare damper bread to cook on the fire independently. 	 Maintain a fire Cook a pizza wrap on the fire with support. 	 Light, maintain and extinguish a fire safely Cook a pizza wrap on the fire independently.
Knots	 Make a dog log with support 	 Tie a knot of their own choosing 	 Learn a clove hitch – make a bow & arrow or decorate a wand 	 Learn a timber hitch – use to make a rope walk 	 Learn how to square lash and use to create a frame 	 Make a structure using knots to support.
Mindfulness	 Learn about a sit spot and how to listen to natural sounds 	 Sit independently in allocated sit spot for guided activity 	• Sit independently in sit spot of own choosing for 1 minute	• Sit independently in sit spot of own choosing for 2 minutes	 Actively engage in 3+ minutes of peaceful time, self-chosen 	 Actively engage in 3+ minutes of peaceful time, self-chosen
Nature	 Locate different leaves Make a leaf rubbing Discuss seasons and changes Create using natural materials – e.g. mud kitchen/potions 	 Identify some minibeasts and explore habitats Identity at least 3 trees in forest school. 	 Identify at least 5 trees in forest school, describing bark, leaves and nuts/seeds Explore lifecycles of butterflies/frogs 	 Make natural dyes and use for purpose. Create a minibeast hotel 	 Make a bird feeder using melted lard Name some woodland birds and recognise their song. Use mud/clay and sticks to build a structure or character. 	 Hedgehog hotel creation Support work around site to improve wildlife habitats
Teamwork	 Work together to build a den for a teddy, with support (talk about survival and shelter) 	 Work together to create an obstacle course with natural objects 	 Work with a partner to go on a blind sensory walk. 	 Create a game using natural resources and teach others how to play. 	 Build a shelter to shield from the weather. 	 Work together to complete a project, using 'stations' to work systematically.
Tool use	 Use a spade effectively to dig a hole Use a hammer safely (hapazome) Use a safety whittler to make a wand/cooking stick 	 Use a saw with support. Use a hammer and nails with support to connect pieces of wood. 	 Use a saw independently to make a tree cookie or chop firewood. 	 Use a palm/hand drill safely and independently 	 Use secateurs or loppers to maintain site or to make something using natural materials 	 Use a hammer and nails to connect two or more pieces of wood together independently.