

## **Fire Pit and Forest Friday**

*Our fire pit is more than a feature of Forest School - it is a shared space for learning, reflection and connection to nature.*

At Aston Rowant School our fire pit is an important and carefully managed part of our Forest Friday provision, supporting Eco Enrichment, outdoor learning and pupils' personal development.

Used purposefully and safely, the fire pit provides children with valuable opportunities to connect with nature, learn responsibility and develop confidence through real, hands-on experiences in the outdoor environment.

### **Learning Through Nature**

The fire pit plays a central role in Forest School sessions, where pupils:

- Explore the natural environment in a calm, respectful way
- Take part in structured, age-appropriate outdoor activities
- Develop practical skills and independence
- Reflect, talk and listen in a shared, focused space

Gathering around the fire pit creates a sense of community and belonging, encouraging attentive listening, cooperation and respect.

### **Developing Responsibility and Respect**

Through the use of the fire pit, pupils learn:

- How to behave safely and responsibly outdoors
- The importance of clear rules and routines
- Respect for natural resources and the environment
- How to assess risk with adult guidance

Children understand that fire is a powerful resource that must be treated with care, reinforcing messages about safety, trust and personal responsibility.

### **Wellbeing and Emotional Development**

The fire pit provides a calm and reflective setting where pupils:

- Feel secure and grounded in nature
- Build self-confidence through new experiences
- Develop resilience and independence
- Engage in quiet discussion, storytelling and reflection

Forest School sessions around the fire pit support pupils' **emotional wellbeing**, offering space to reset, regulate and connect with others.

### **Eco Awareness and Sustainability**

Using the fire pit encourages pupils to:

- Develop a deeper respect for the natural world
- Consider how humans interact responsibly with nature
- Understand sustainability and the careful use of resources
- Appreciate outdoor environments as places of learning and care

These experiences strengthen pupils' understanding that protecting nature goes hand-in-hand with enjoying it responsibly.

### **Impact on Pupils**

As a result of using the fire pit as part of Forest School, pupils:

- Show increased confidence and independence
- Demonstrate respect for rules and routines
- Engage positively with outdoor learning
- Develop strong teamwork and communication skills
- Display pride in caring for their environment

The learning gained through these sessions transfers into pupils' behaviour, attitudes and engagement across school life.

The use of the fire pit within Forest School provides strong evidence of:

- Personal Development – resilience, confidence, responsibility and wellbeing
- Behaviour and Attitudes – respect, self-control and cooperation
- Eco Enrichment – sustainability, environmental awareness and care for nature
- Curriculum Breadth – meaningful learning beyond the classroom
- SMSC Development – reflection, community and respect for the natural world
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