Boots & Brambles
Forest School

Frequently Asked Questions

What are Forest School sessions and how long are they?

These sessions are child-led free play, outdoor sessions including nature-based crafts, tool use and campfire cooking. Forest School sessions are 90 minutes long.

How old does my child have to be?

We have no lower age limit for our sessions - we believe there are so many benefits for all ages in spending time outdoors in nature. Due to the fact that these sessions include tool use and campfire skills, many parents/carers move their child up to the Forest School sessions from Baby Brambles around 2.5 years - but this is entirely up to you - we have many children younger than this attending! This is also a perfect group if you have children of differing ages as they can attend the group together.

I have a younger child too – can they come along?

You are more than welcome to bring younger siblings along to the session. Pre-walking siblings attend the session free of charge – we just ask you to let us know when you make your booking that they will be coming along. The site is accessible by pushchair. For walking siblings we offer a sibling discount rate.

Are there any refreshments and do you have toilets?

We provide tea, coffee, hot chocolate and biscuits - please bring your own travel mug with you. We have access to indoor toilets with baby changing facilities.

Is there parking?

The Church Centre has a car park. It is not the most sizeable of car parks so we ask that you park as close together as you safely can (leaving room to get small children in and out of the vehicles safely).

What should my little one wear?

Please see our "What to Wear" page on the website (www.bootsandbrambles.com) and our downloadable kit list. Remember to dress both you and your little one in suitable outdoor clothes that you don't mind getting muddy and wet. We suggest a waterproof outer layer for adults and children as we hold our sessions fully outdoors and always have mud and water play available.

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(continued)

What is a typical session like?
We start the session with a welcome song around our campfire circle - but there is no obligation for children (or adults) to sit and join in - most of our wildlings are keen to explore and play as soon as they arrive and so I'm used to singing to myself!!
There is lots of time for child-led free play in our woods and lots to explore such as our mud kitchen, hammock, diggers and slack line. Each week we share a nature-based story, with a different theme. There are also some guided activities such as tool use and nature-based crafts. We then gather around the campfire to share a campfire treat.

Why are sessions booked in half term blocks?
We encourage block booking as visiting our woodland on a regular basis enables children to become confident and more independent in exploring our site, it enables them to experience the woods through the changing seasons and helps to develop relationships within the group.
It also enables children to build upon their tool use and campfire skills over the weeks. We understand that due to work commitments, this may not be possible for everyone, so do offer a few individual sessions at £12* per session.

How much do sessions cost?
Sessions are ideally booked in half term blocks which work out as £10* per session.

What do you do in cases of severe weather?
We check the weather forecast before each session and adapt the activities accordingly. We have large tarpaulins up in the woods to provide shelter. We endeavour to hold our sessions in all weather, throughout the year, with the exception of very high winds or thunderstorms when it would be unsafe to be in the woods. In this case we would have to cancel the session and contact you accordingly.

What if we have to miss a session?
If your child has to miss a session, they are welcome to come along to a ‘catch up’ session in the same half term. We have sessions running on several days, so are happy to have them attend their catch up on a different day .

*Prices as of February 2022 – may be subject to change.