



Our richest resource is nature.

Think outside; no box required!

The earth has music for those who listen.

Let the adventure begin...

Children: 100% washable, towel dry.

And breathe...

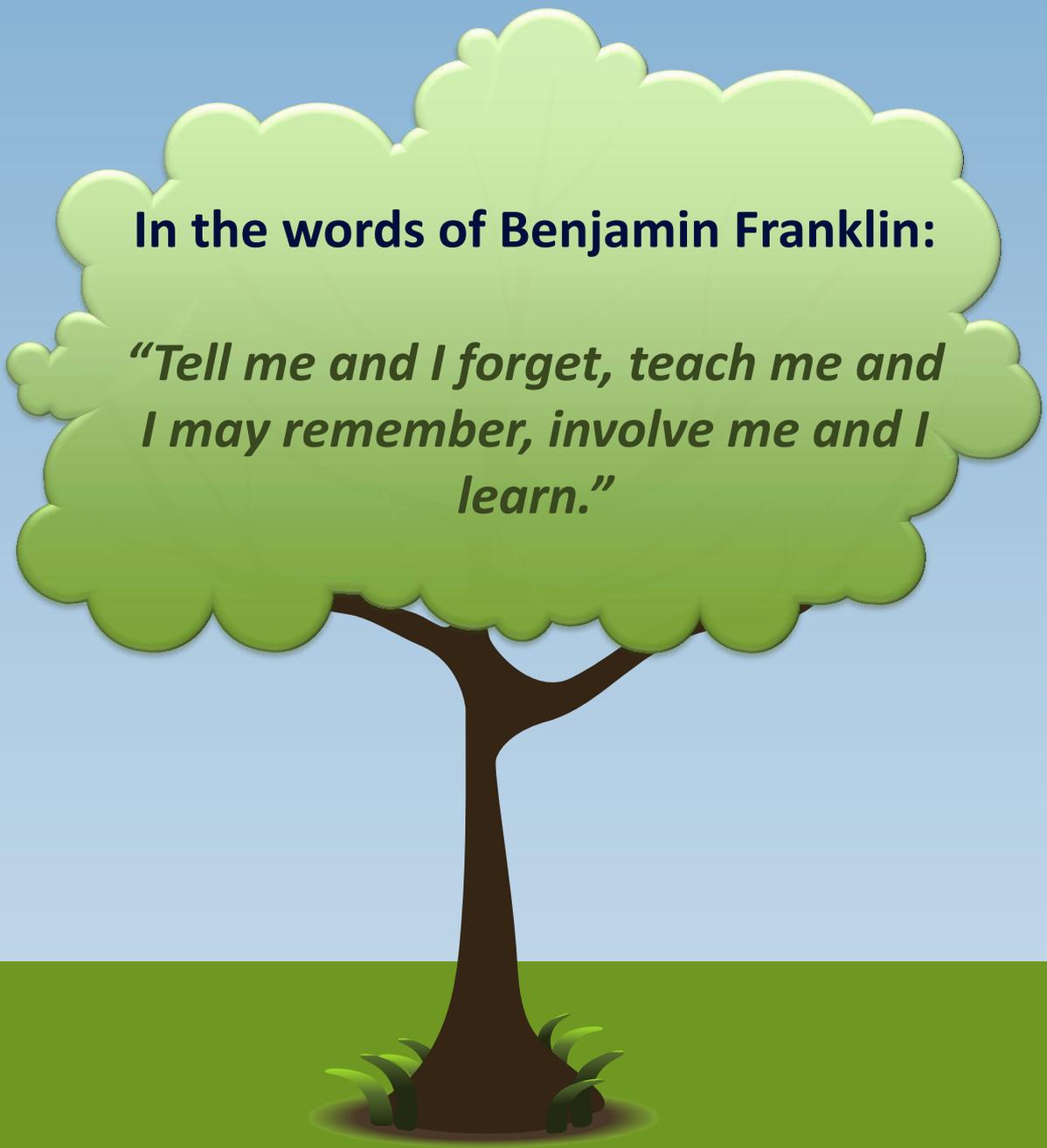
We can never have enough wildness!

All good things are wild and free!

Play is the highest form of research.

Fairway Primary

Forest School



In the words of Benjamin Franklin:

“Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn.”

History

The *Forest School* ethos dates back to the 1800s when educationalist theorists (inc Montessori and Piaget) first advocated the benefits of learning in the natural environment and felt that healthy development came from 'experiential play' which is both real and stimulating.

"Play alone is the free expression of what is in a child's soul"

Friedrich Froebel

"Education is a natural process carried out by the child and is not acquired by listening to words but by experiences in the environment."

Maria Montessori

History

The 1950s saw the introduction of Swedish 'Rain or Shine Schools' - the premise of these being that children learn through play, using nature and the environment as their teacher. Children were encouraged to lead their own learning, with nature acting as a vehicle for them to do this.



History

It wasn't until the 1990s that the idea of outdoor learning was brought over to the UK. Since then *Forest School* has been a rapidly growing project and by 2006 there were approximately 140 such schools in Britain. In 2012 the movement reached a milestone when the 'Forest School Association' was formed, which is now recognised as a national body.



Key aims:



To nurture self esteem.

To enhance children's communication skills and ability to work as a team.

To equip children with love and respect for the outdoors.

To provide real life opportunities and create independent learners.

To develop healthy minds and healthy bodies.

To teach resilience and risk taking.

How will Forest School work at Fairway?

All children will have a Forest School session every week.

Forest School principles will build upon what is established in the Foundation Stage with Year 3 having a more in-depth experience initially.

Risk assessments will be in place, and regularly reviewed, for all activities.

Children will have a range of outdoor learning experiences which tie in with their curriculum studies.

Ratio of staff to children will always be carefully considered.

Sessions will focus on wide ranging skills and reflect curriculum studies.

At Fairway we are going to use our richest classroom of all, the outdoors, to enhance the learning and experiences of our children. The skills that they develop through sessions will give them the skills that they need to succeed in all aspects of their educational and personal lives.



What kinds of activities will the children be doing?

Developing motor skills through using tools, creating shelters and den building.

Creative and imaginative child centred exploration.

Outdoor experiences will support in-school learning, broadening their understanding and knowledge base.

Learning about their own self-esteem, resilience and expanding their thoughts and ideas about themselves, their community and their environment.

What will the children need?



Sturdy walking shoes or wellingtons

Waterproof coat and waterproof trousers or splash-suits are essential!

Gloves, hat and scarf

Most importantly a great imagination!