



# UNDER THE CANOPY



Each Half Term Canopy Forest School will produce a Newsletter to share the learning and upcoming events of the Forest School



***Welcome to our first Newsletter***

*Our theme this first half term is connections.*

## ***Connections:***

***"noun: the state of being related to someone or something else"***  
***(Cambridge Dictionary)***

Hello and welcome to Canopy Forest School. We are so excited to be starting this new outdoor learning journey with you and your child.

Our theme for Autumn 1 is *connections* which is our first value and we will be connecting to each other as a new group and to our Forest School space.

During this first half term we will be sharing many stories, songs and playing games which will help us to build relationships and connect us as a group. These activities will help us feel comfortable around each other, make everyone equal and most importantly they are great fun and promote laughter. As we play we will also be getting to know the trees, plants and animals that inhabit our Forest School space and we will be building a relationship and environmental identity.



***"Autumn shows us how beautiful it is to let things go." (unknown)***



During the first six weeks of any Forest School programme base line assessments take place and these help us to build up a holistic profile of each member. It is from these assessments that all our future work will be based and this involves observing, reflecting and discussing what motivates and interests the group.

Forest school is based on an emergent curriculum which means that we take our lead from you and your child. Our planning is loose in form to allow for flexibility and child led adaptations. At the end of each session we always discuss and reflect on our learning and then make plans on where and what we would like to discover and explore next.

The seasons and weather will influence our activities and we are so lucky to start our Forest School sessions in the autumn which I am sure you will agree is such a beautiful time of the year. Playing with leaves and preparing our site so it can accommodate the creatures for the coming winter months, we are sure, be a big part of what we will do.

We are excited to see where the children will take us with their learning. It will be refreshing for us to follow their lead and will build their confidence, self-esteem, self-worth and connect them as a learning community.

Every week we will post our activities on the Canopy Forest School Twitter, Facebook and Instagram accounts and this will be done respectfully. We will of course not include pictures of any children who we have not got permission from but it will capture the theme and learning journey that we have been on that week. So please do follow us on these platforms.

Each half term in our newsletter we also thought it would be nice to share an outdoors activity that you could do at home. This will be linked to our learning and the season.

Our first activity celebrates conkers and is a lovely but simple art play activity. All you need is a tub, some paint and of course some conkers. This activity is a wonderful way to connect with the natural world around you and you can't beat the fun and excitement involved in collecting these amazing shiny auburn seeds.







# **AUTUMN CONKER ART**

**CREATE LOTS OF FUN PATTERNS USING AUTUMN COLOURS AND CONKERS.**

## Equipment:

- Conkers
- Autumn colour paints
- Washing up bowl
- Paper

## Activity:

1. Place a piece of paper into the box or bowl
2. dip some conkers in paint and place on the paper.
3. Then start moving or shaking the box or bowl as vigorously as you like.
4. As the conkers roll over the paper they create an amazing splatter paint pattern and easy to clean up