

Covid-19 Policy

Exmoor Forest School sessions will allow children to play, to learn, to feel and to connect. We will promote health, adventure, happiness and wellbeing, reconnecting with each other and with nature.

With cases at an all time high in North Devon, the team urge you to remain extra vigilant and do what you can in reducing the spread of the virus.

If a member of your household has any of the 3 recognised symptoms the whole household must immediately isolate and you must book a PCR test (Barnstaple or Dulverton). Please do advise us as soon as you can so that we can be prepared to take any necessary action too.

All of the household must remain in isolation until the result is back. If it is negative then isolation can cease, however if positive your household needs to isolate for 10 whole days after the day of the first symptoms. As we know more children are being affected these Summer months, their symptoms often show up as:

- Tiredness
- Sore throat
- Headache
- Stomach ache
- Nausea/vomiting
- Loss of taste or smell
- Fever/Chills
- Diarrhoea
- Shortness of breath
- Stuffy/runny nose
- Cough
- Body aches

If your child is displaying ANY of these symptoms or just feeling unwell do not send them to Forest School, please carry out a LFT (Lateral Flow Test). If it's negative they can come to their next Forest School session when they feel better. If it's positive please book them in for a PCR and adhere to the isolation requirements mentioned above.

We will be working on the government's recommended 'Protective measures for out of school settings during Coronavirus outbreak', subject to government-specified infection controls. The infection control procedures required by government guidelines are:

- Minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend childcare settings, schools or colleges
- Cleaning hands more often than usual – wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with clean water, soap and dry them thoroughly or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered or both.
- Ensuring good respiratory hygiene – promote the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach

The following procedures have been designed to follow government guidelines insofar as they are applicable in an outdoor environment, to keep everyone as safe as possible while still running an enjoyable day outdoors. The procedures cannot cover every eventuality, but we will use our judgement to apply the government's principles above, which will help to keep you and your children safe.

By booking with us you explicitly agree to the terms, conditions and procedures, together with general terms and conditions, and we will expect you to abide strictly by them, so please take a moment to read and understand them.

The following may be subject to change if the official advice on the coronavirus changes, so it is worth revisiting our terms, conditions, policies page just before your child is due to attend.

Attendance

Attendance on the day is subject to your child being virus-free, as far as it is practicable to be sure. This means you must NOT bring your child if they:

- show any symptoms of the previous listed
- show any symptoms within 7 days prior to attending
- are living with an individual who has shown symptoms within 14 days before the date of their attendance (they and you should be self-isolating as per government guidelines)
- Children who turn up with a cough – or who are accompanied by an adult or sibling with a cough – or are otherwise obviously unwell will not be accepted by the registering leader. The leader's decision on this matter is final. You will not be eligible for a refund under these circumstances.

Please be responsible when making a decision about bringing your child – bringing a child who is mildly ill, even if you are sure they are well enough to attend, could threaten the health of other children, and of our staff. Our staff are required to self-isolate at the first sign of any symptoms, so if you send a poorly child – even if you are convinced that they do not have COVID-19 – you risk us having to cancel all future sessions for this season because our staff will be unable to work.

Kit on the day

Food and Drink: For full day sessions children will bring with them a packed lunch, snacks and lots to drink; Please bring labelled water bottles. For 2 hour sessions you're welcome to bring a snack and drink.

Hand Hygiene: We provide multiple hand washing opportunities. If you would like your child to use hand sanitiser children can bring their own.

Distance

It is clearly impossible to maintain a 2m distance in woods and rough terrain with primary age children. We cannot guarantee that children will not be within touching distance of each other at brief times during the day in the woods with us. Please do not send your children if you expect them to strictly maintain a 2m distance from everyone at every moment during the day.

The toilet surfaces which are likely to be touched will be disinfected at regular intervals during the day.

After the day

It is a good idea to launder clothes after a day in which you have been in contact with anyone who is not from your immediate household, as there is some evidence the virus can linger on fabrics.

Finally, thank you for your understanding and cooperation during these unprecedented times. We look forward to welcoming your children into the outdoors, to reconnect with nature and each other, under the safe guidelines and procedures laid out in this document.