

## **Planning the Curriculum/ Activities and Opportunities Information for Lead Teachers**

We are keen to streamline and improve the planning process for schools and want to provide information which is not over burdening.

### The planning prior to your visit aims to:

- Ensure that we have the staff, resources and environments organised appropriately and effectively.
- Coordinate the rotation of children's experiences around the Centre.
- Give you an idea of possible timings including fixed aspects such as mealtimes.
- Incorporate a balance of adult led and child initiated or more independent learning.
- Include time for children to enjoy physical or adventurous play within the natural open spaces.
- Indicate where Kingswood staff take the lead and where visiting staff lead their own groups.
- Give you the opportunity to brief children, colleagues and parents prior to the visit.
- Allow for flexibility wherever possible.
- With these aims in mind, we create a shell in which you can then mix and match the types of experiences that you wish the children to engage in. My advice however is that "less is more."

### Seasonal Planning

The weather and seasons will impact on the suitability of what can be made available to you during your visit. For example pond dipping usually operates from the beginning of the summer term until October half term, as do some of the mini beast safari activities. This is due to success for the children being reduced during the colder months and the need to maintain the quality of the habitats and ultimately the wildlife within them. The learning opportunities list will indicate where some are restricted.

### Themed days for Foundation Stage include:

- Woodlander Forest Day/Earth Day – Earthy activities/using the senses/enjoying the Woodland.
- Run Rabbit Run – Be a rabbit for the day and explore what rabbits do.
- Ladybird Bug Hunt and Minibeast Safari – Mini beast activities circus.
- The Three Little Pigs – Hands on materials exploration.

### Focus Days/Residential for all children include:

- Forest School – Have an introduction or taster to Forest School working.
- Woodland Challenge- variety of activities, which encourage partner/team work.
- Mini beast Safari – exploring and comparing different mini beast habitats.
- Habitats and Homes – Animals, different habitats within the Woodland.
- Plants and Trees – Focus related to season. What is a woodland?
- Sensing the surroundings – Exploring the woodland through sensory activities.
- Contrasting Localities – similarities and differences between places.
- Let's get physical-Orienteering, let's raise the heart rate.
- Materials – Exploring nature's resources and manmade materials, manipulating, using and experiencing.
- Here, There and Everywhere – Directions and simple map work.

- Maps and Directions – More able geographers/Year 3.