

## What benefits will my child get from participating in wild tribe?

Wild tribe supports the holistic development of the pupil:

- Health and fitness – Being active in an outdoor, natural environment.
- Increased emotional wellbeing – There is research available supporting this.
- Social development – Communicating, and negotiating with peers and adults to solve problems and share experiences.
- Skills development – Developing fine and gross motor skills and coordination for real purposes.
- Gaining knowledge and understanding – Multi-sensory, real-life learning.
- Individualised learning – Careful observation allows adults to tailor support to pupils' own interests and stage of development.
- Curriculum Links – Wild tribe supports many areas of the National Curriculum.

## Health and Safety

The health and safety of all participants is central to everything done within a Wild tribe programme. Wild tribe Practitioners are fully trained in risk assessment and emergency outdoor first aid. Every Wild Tribe Programme will have; a Health and Safety policy; a seasonally and daily risk assessed site; risk assessments for activities; first aid and emergency equipment. Some of the activities the pupils may participate in are 'higher-risk activities' (such as campfire cooking or tool use). However, these activities are not available to the pupils until certain behaviours and boundaries are established. Pupils are encouraged and supported in recognising and managing risk for themselves, through real life situations and experiences.

## What does my child need to bring?

Your child just needs to bring themselves. However, what they wear is important. The children must wear long trousers and long sleeved tops and have waterproof jackets and wellies or old trainers. Waterproof trousers are also very useful. Please be aware that these clothes are likely to get dirty at times. A hat and gloves are also handy when the weather gets chilly. See pictures for examples of suitable clothing



Wild Tribe leader – Mrs Kari Gilbert.

## Wild Tribe

### A Guide for Parents

- *Look after yourself*
- *Look after each other*
- *Look after the environment*



*"This is the best kind of classroom,  
It's a journey through time and space,  
From the smallest seed to the largest tree,  
This is a Forest and a learning place.*

*This is the best kind of classroom,  
Where the seasons don't happen in books.  
Where the learning is watching and thinking and talking  
And everyone notices, everyone looks."*

*+From 'The best Kind of Classroom' by Ian MacMillan*

## What is Wild Tribe?

Wild Tribe has been based on the principles of Forest schools which was developed from the Scandinavian education system and is about young people building self-esteem and independence through exploring and experiencing the natural world. Forest Schools is a long term programme delivered by trained practitioners within a natural environment (not necessarily a Forest!).

The main difference between Forest Schools and Wild tribe is that Wild Tribe has been developed by teachers and practitioners working alongside each other to ensure that units of exploration have been developed, which meet the needs of all learners not just Early Years and meets the requirements of the new National Curriculum covering a range of curriculum areas.

Each Wild tribe unit of exploration is tailored to meet the needs of individuals within that group and is continuously developed as the young people grow in confidence, skills and understanding as a result of their exploration.

The ethos of Forest Schools allows learners the time and space to develop skills, interests and understanding through practical, hands-on experiences. It also allows practitioners to step back and observe the young people in order to then encourage and inspire individuals to achieve through careful scaffolding and facilitating. Wild tribe has been developed based on the principles of Forest schools but with our own natural Cornish twist and St Stephens' school values and ethos



## Where will pupils be going?

**Wild tribe will be based on the school site here at St Stephens.**

We are so fortunate to have such amazing grounds and many natural features (we may import natural materials such as logs and seeds) at St Stephens. The sites are safe; thoroughly risk assessed and managed appropriately by trained practitioners.

## What will the children be doing?

The Wild Tribe routine varies depending on the stage of the group and their needs alongside the needs of our environment and their class learning, however it may include:

- **Natural crafts – making necklaces from Elder, dream catchers from Willow, collages from natural materials, weaving with long grasses etc.**
- **Mud sculptures**
- **Shelter building and knot tying**
- **Tree climbing**
- **Using tools for a purpose – such as peeling bark from sticks with potato peelers to make toasting forks.**
- **Fire building and cooking on a camp fire**
- **Activities linked to literacy, numeracy, science or a school theme**
- **Digging and planting vegetable beds.**
- **Caring for our school ducks and chickens, feeding, collecting eggs.**
- **Identifying and finding flowers, trees etc. in our grounds.**
- **Researching facts in our outside classroom/large poly tunnel**
- **Orienteering and map reading in our school grounds; meadow, forest area.**
- **Clearing our pond area and pond dipping.**
- **Planting in our poly tunnels.**



## Continuity in sessions

Sessions are planned around the individual's and group's needs, and built upon each week. The school grounds and seasonal activities will also help lead sessions e.g. planting, harvesting etc.

All Wild Tribe Practitioners are qualified through nationally recognised and accredited training, therefore ensuring Wild Tribe is a high quality learning experience.

The earlier sessions will concentrate on safety; establishing boundaries and routines.

As the pupils develop in confidence and familiarity with the environment the sessions focus on the development and consolidation of skills and understanding, and link further with National Curriculum areas.