CROSSGATES PRIMARY SCHOOL – Forest School MEDIUM TERM PLAN 2026-2027

	Autumn		Spring	Summer	
FS			**Session 1 Welcome to Forest School** Summary - Introducing Values/boundaries and creating a community in forest school . Reception (EYFS) Session 1: Forest Friends (Intro to Forest School Part 1 — Community & Rules) LO: To explore our outdoor space safely, learn simple boundary rules, and share ideas for how we care for each other. Key Vocabulary: 1. Safe | 2. Gentle | 3. Share **Session 2: Explore More** (Intro to Forest School Part 2 — Site & Play) LO: To explore our school grounds and identify key areas in our outdoor environment. Key Vocabulary: 1. Outdoors | 2. Spot | 3. Route **Session 3: Spring** LO: To observe and describe physical changes in plants and weather as spring arrives. Key Vocabulary: 1. Spring 2. Bud | 3. Growth	**Session 4: Frog Fun** LO: To identify eggs/frogspawn and talk about how young animals change as they grow. Key Vocabulary: 1. Frogspawn | 2. Tadpole | 3. Frog **Session 5: Marvellous May** LO: To observe and describe different flowering plants growing in our local area. Key Vocabulary: 1. Petal | 2. Flower | 3. Leaf **Session 6: Busy Bees and Flower Friends** LO: To identify bees and butterflies and describe how they interact with plants. Key Vocabulary: 1. Bee | 2. Nectar | 3. Buzz	**Session 7: Guardians of the Oceans** LO: To talk about why it is important to keep our water, outdoor spaces, and planet clean. Geography Medium Term Plan.docx+ 1 Key Vocabulary: 1. Ocean | 2. Water | 3. Litter **Session 8: Glorious Mud** LO: To explore mud using our senses and describe how adding water changes its texture. Key Vocabulary: 1. Mud | 2. Sticky | 3. Mix **Session 9: Spreading Your Wings** LO: To talk about things I am proud of achieving and how I have grown this year. RSHE MTP NEW!.docx Key Vocabulary: 1. Proud | 2. Grow | 3. Challenge
Year 1			**Session 1 Welcome to Forest School** Summary - Introducing Values/boundaries and creating a community in forest school . Session 1: Forest Friends (Intro to Forest School Part 1 — Community & Rules) LO: To recognize basic outdoor rules that keep us safe and talk about what makes our Forest	**Session 4: Frog Fun** LO: To classify frogs as amphibians and identify the main parts of their body. Key Vocabulary: 1. Amphibian | 2. Webbed | 3. Life Cycle **Session 5: Marvellous May** LO: To compare similarities and differences between wild and garden flowering plants.	**Session 7: Guardians of the Oceans** LO: To name the oceans of the world and explain how pollution affects marine life. Key Vocabulary: 1. Ocean | 2. Continent | 3. Pollution **Session 8: Glorious Mud** LO: To investigate the simple physical properties of rock, soil, and mud. Key Vocabulary: 1. Soil | 2. Texture | 3. Absorb

			School group a welcoming community. Forest School Key Vocabulary: 1. Boundary | 2. Belonging | 3. Teamwork **Session 2: Explore More** (Intro to Forest School Part 2 — Site & Play) LO: To use simple directional language to navigate our Forest School site and locate features. Key Vocabulary: 1. Near | 2. Far | 3. Direction **Session 3 Spring** LO: To identify and name seasonal changes in wild plants and trees across our site. Key Vocabulary: 1. Deciduous | 2. Shoot | 3. Blossom	Key Vocabulary: 1. Stem | 2. Wild | 3. Petal **Session 6: Busy Bees and Flower Friends** LO: To classify bees as insects/invertebrates and identify their key physical features. Key Vocabulary: 1. Insect | 2. Wings | 3. Pollen	Session 9: Spreading Your Wings LO: To identify personal strengths and describe how overcoming challenges helps us learn. Key Vocabulary: 1. Strength | 2. Achieve | 3. Relax
Year 2			**Session 1 Welcome to Forest School** Summary - Introducing Values/boundaries and creating a community in forest school . **Session 1: Forest Friends (Intro to Forest School Part 1 — Community & Rules)** LO: To identify simple physical boundaries in nature and work cooperatively with peers to agree on shared group values. Key Vocabulary: 1. Respect | 2. Cooperation | 3. Boundaries **Session 2: Explore More (Intro to Forest School Part 2 — Site & Play)** LO: To identify natural physical features on site and describe their location using simple compass directions. Key Vocabulary: 1. Feature | 2. Landmark | 3. Compass **Session 3: Spring**	**Session 4: Frog Fun** LO: To describe how a frog changes through its life cycle and what it needs to survive. Key Vocabulary: 1. Metamorphosis | 2. Offspring | 3. Survival **Session 5: Marvellous May** LO: To identify living mini-beasts in grassy habitats and construct a simple food chain. Key Vocabulary: 1. Habitat | 2. Invertebrate | 3. Food Chain **Session 6: Busy Bees and Flower Friends** LO: To explain how pollinators help plants produce seeds and survive in habitats. Key Vocabulary: 1. Pollinator | 2. Colony | 3. Interdependence	**Session 7: Guardians of the Oceans** LO: To describe how plastic and pollution move through waterways and harm natural habitats. Key Vocabulary: 1. Coast | 2. Marine | 3. Environment **Session 8: Glorious Mud** LO: To test how different natural materials mix with water to change state and durability. Key Vocabulary: 1. Mixture | 2. Solid | 3. Liquid **Session 9: Spreading Your Wings** LO: To explain what perseverance means and reflect on how we manage times of change. Key Vocabulary: 1. Perseverance | 2. Reflection | 3. Growth

				LO: To describe how seeds and bulbs germinate and grow during early spring. Key Vocabulary: 1. Germination | 2. Seedling | 3. Growth **Session 7: Guardians of the**		
Year 3				**Session 1 Welcome to Forest School** Summary - Introducing Values/boundaries and creating a community in forest school . **Session 1: Forest Friends** (Intro to Forest School Part 1 — Community & Rules) LO: To explain the reasons for Forest School safety rules and contribute ideas to create a shared community code on our group flag. Key Vocabulary: 1. Responsibility | 2. Community | 3. Agreement **Session 2: Explore More** (Intro to Forest School Part 2 — Site & Play) LO: To map key areas of our Forest School site using simple keys and grid symbols. Key Vocabulary: 1. Navigation | 2. Spatial | 3. Map Key **Session 3: Spring** LO: To investigate the functions of leaves, stems, and roots in spring plant growth. Key Vocabulary: 1. Nutrient | 2. Photosynthesis | 3. Structure	**Session 4: Frog Fun** LO: To explain how frogs are adapted to their damp freshwater habitat and construct a suitable micro-habitat shelter. Key Vocabulary: 1. Adaptation | 2. Micro-habitat | 3. Amphibious **Session 5: Marvellous May** LO: To explore the parts of a flowering plant and explain the role insects play in pollination. Key Vocabulary: 1. Pollination | 2. Nectar | 3. Dispersal **Session 6: Busy Bees and Flower Friends** LO: To investigate insect and wind pollination mechanisms in flowering plants. Key Vocabulary: 1. Anther | 2. Stigma | 3. Fertilisation	**Session 7: Guardians of the Oceans** LO: To investigate how natural hazards and human activity impact water systems and sea defences. Key Vocabulary: 1. Drainage | 2. Runoff | 3. Protection **Session 8: Glorious Mud** LO: To examine different soil layers, organic matter, and test soil water retention. Key Vocabulary: 1. Organic | 2. Sediment | 3. Weathering **Session 9: Spreading Your Wings** LO: To reflect on personal goals, offer constructive praise to peers, and celebrate group achievements. Key Vocabulary: 1. Resilience | 2. Achievement | 3. Transition
Year 4	**Session 1 Welcome to Forest School** Summary - Introducing Values/boundaries and creating a community in forest school . Activity: Designing a group values flag. Year 4 LO: PSHE (Safety & Teamwork)	**Session 5 Reflect, Remember, Respond** Summary: A peaceful, thoughtful week centred on kindness and empathy. To develop an area of Reflection within FS. . Seasonal Links: Remembrance Day (11th Nov) & World Kindness Day (13th Nov).	**Session 8: Birds** Summary: Pupils will identify common species and gather citizen science data for the Big Schools' Birdwatch. They will have opportunities to connect and care for the birds on our site. Year 4: Pinecone Suet Feeders & Winter Energy Chains LO: Explain how winter birds adapt to cold weather and			

	To identify hazards in a Forest School environment and collaborate as a team to establish shared community rules for safe exploration. **Key Vocab** **Hazard** **Collaboration** **Community** **Session 2 Water** Seasonal Links: World Rivers Day (27th Sept) & Autumn Equinox. (23rd Sept) Summary – Use mud, natural materials and water to create coastlines (Y4)/ rivers (Y5/Y6) and stick/leaf rafts. Year 4 - LO Y4 Identify physical coastal features and understand how water shapes the land. **Key Vocab** **Erosion** **Coastline** **Landform** **Session 3 Animals & Habitats** Summary of the Week: To design and construct animal shelters using natural materials, demonstrating how structural features support animal survival in woodland micro-habitats. To develop a wildlife zone within out FS site Seasonal Links: World Habitat Day (5th Oct), Year 4	Year 4: Clay Poppies LO (PSHE): *To explain the significance of national symbols of remembrance and express personal feelings about empathy and respect using natural clay.* Key Vocabulary: **Commemoration** **Empathy** **Symbolism** **Session 6 Trees & Planting** Summary of the Week: Celebrating National Tree Week by identifying woodland giants and planting new native tree saplings. Seasonal Links: National Tree Week (21st–29th November). Year 4 LO Identify local tree species by inspecting leaf shapes, bark textures, and seeds. Discovery Activity - Tree ID & Bark Rubbings **Session 7 Celebrations** To make a tree decoration. Y4 LO (D&T - Make): *To select and shape flexible twigs into a 2D triangular frame, using winding and wrapping techniques with yarn to securely join components and create a neat aesthetic finish.* Key Vocabulary:	create high-energy foods to aid their survival. Key Science Vocabulary: **insulation** **energy** **fat reserves** **Session 9 Winter and Shelter** Summary of the Week: Facing the winter elements by pitching windproof shelters. Pupils will investigate the physical challenges of mid-winter frost, snow, and freezing winds by exploring how structural design, material density, and insulation principles create life-saving protection against extreme seasonal weather. Seasonal Links: Mid-Winter Frost, Snow, & Cold Weather. **Year 4: Pallet-Anchored Shell & Frame Shelter** LO: Design and join a large freestanding shell frame using pallets and tarpaulins to protect a whole team from rain and wind. **Key Vocabulary:** **triangulation** **tension** **anchoring** **Session 10 - Imbolc** To engage in hands-on, ancient Imbolc customs—weaving willow crosses, carving ceremonial hazel sticks, and crafting solar sun-catchers—to explore historical traditions, folklore, and cultural continuity surrounding the arrival of early spring. Year 4 LO: To investigate how ancient Gaelic Imbolc traditions evolved during the Anglo-Saxon and Scot era by crafting a traditional Brigid's cross. **Key Vocab** **Imbolc** **Gaelic**			

	LO Identify basic animal shelter needs and build a habitat using natural materials. **Key Vocab** **Hibernaculum** **Shelter** **Micro-habitat** **Session 4 Food and Fire** – Summary - Making pumpkin soup over a campfire. Year 4: States of Matter (Evaporation & Condensation) Learning Objective (LO): *I can observe and describe how liquids turn to gases when heated and gases turn to liquids when cooled.* **Key Vocab** **Evaporation** **Condensation** **Thermal energy**	**Flexibility** **Winding** **Tension**	**Continuity**			
Year 5	**Session 1 Welcome to Forest School** Summary - Introducing Values/boundaries and creating a community in forest school . Activity: Designing a group values flag. Year 5 LO: PSHE (Community & Boundaries) *To manage personal safety and respect physical boundaries while working collaboratively toward a shared community goal.* **Key Vocab** **Risk assessment** **Cooperation** **Responsibility**	**Session 5 Reflect, Remember, Respond** Summary: A peaceful, thoughtful week centered on kindness and empathy.To develop an area of Reflecvtion within FS. . Seasonal Links: Remembrance Day (11th Nov) & World Kindness Day (13th Nov). Year 5: Fence Weaving & Reflection Den LO (PSHE): *To collaborate as a team to construct a shared woodland reflection space that promotes inclusion, quiet thought, and positive friendship.* **Key Vocabulary:** **Inclusion**	**Session 8: Birds** Summary: Pupils will identify common species and gather citizen science data for the Big Schools' Birdwatch. They will have opportunities to connect and care for the birds on our site. Year 5: Beak Adaptation Lab & Feeding Specialization LO: Investigate how different beak shapes are adapted to specific winter food sources and use physical traits to classify birds. Key Science Vocabulary: **adaptation** **specialisation** **classification** **Session 9 Winter and Shelter** Summary of the Week: Facing the winter elements by pitching windproof shelters. Pupils will			

	Session 2 Water Seasonal Links: World Rivers Day (27th Sept) & Autumn Equinox. (23rd Sept) Summary – Use mud, natural materials and water to create rivers) and stick/leaf rafts. Year 5 - LO Describe how rivers flow from source to mouth and how materials move along them. **Key Vocab** **Source** **Mouth** **Transportation** **Session 3 Animals & Habitats** Summary of the Week: To design and construct animal shelters using natural materials, demonstrating how structural features support animal survival in woodland micro-habitats. To develop a wildlife zone within out FS site Seasonal Links: World Habitat Day (5th Oct), Year 5 LO :Construct complex animal homes and explain how animals rely on their habitats for survival. **Key Vocab** **Interdependence** **Adaptation** **Structural support** **Session 4 Food and Fire** – Summary - Making	**Reflect** **Sanctuary** **Session 6 Trees & Planting** Summary of the Week: Celebrating National Tree Week by identifying woodland giants and planting new native tree saplings. Seasonal Links: National Tree Week (21st–29th November). Year 5 LO Understand the role of trees in local ecosystems and plant saplings for future growth. Discovery Activity - Woodland Trust Sapling Planting **Session 7 Celebrations** Summary - To make a tree decoration. Year 5: Graduated Ladder Tree LO (D&T - Make): *To measure, cut, and arrange twigs in graduated lengths, applying transverse lashing knots to securely join branches along a central spine.* Key Vocabulary: **Lashing** **Graduated** **Symmetry**	investigate the physical challenges of mid-winter frost, snow, and freezing winds by exploring how structural design, material density, and insulation principles create life-saving protection against extreme seasonal weather. Seasonal Links: Mid-Winter Frost, Snow, & Cold Weather. **Year 5: Woven Pallet & Brushwood Barrier Shelter** LO: Construct a framed barrier shelter by weaving deadwood branches and brushwood through structural uprights to block cold prevailing winds. . **Key Vocabulary:** **interlocking** **deflection** **density** **Session 10 - Imbolc** To engage in hands-on, ancient Imbolc customs—weaving willow crosses, carving ceremonial hazel sticks, and crafting solar sun-catchers—to explore historical traditions, folklore, and cultural continuity surrounding the arrival of early spring. Year 5 LO: To investigate how early British seasonal celebrations influenced local folklore, and carve ceremonial hazel sticks. **Key Vocab** **Tradition** **Folklore** **Ceremonial**			

	pumpkin soup over a campfire. Year 5: Properties & Changes of Materials (Reversible Dissolving) Learning Objective (LO): *I can demonstrate that dissolving a solid into a liquid creates a solution that can be reversed.* **Key Vocab** **Solute** **Solution** **Reversible change** .					
Year 6	**<u>Session 1 Welcome to Forest School</u>** Summary - Introducing Values/boundaries and creating a community in forest school . Activity: Designing a group values flag. Year 6 LO: PSHE (Responsibility & Leadership) *To assess environmental risks independently and lead peer discussions to define core values that strengthen our school community.* **Key Vocab** **Leadership** **Legacy** **Responsibility** **Autonomy** **<u>Session 2 Water</u>** Seasonal Links: World Rivers Day (27th Sept) & Autumn Equinox. (23rd Sept) Summary – Use mud, natural materials and water to create rivers and stick/leaf rafts. Year 6	**<u>Session 5 Reflect, Remember, Respond</u>** Summary: A peaceful, thoughtful week centered on kindness and empathy.To develop an area of Reflecvtion within FS. . Seasonal Links: Remembrance Day (11th Nov) & World Kindness Day (13th Nov). Year 6: Kindness Stone Art LO (PSHE): *To design and share uplifting art that actively promotes positive mental health and strengthens emotional wellbeing within our school community.* Key Vocabulary: **Wellbeing** **Affirmation** **Altruism** **<u>Session 6 Trees & Planting</u>** Summary of the Week: Celebrating National Tree Week by identifying woodland giants and	**<u>Session 8: Birds</u>** Summary: Pupils will identify common species and gather citizen science data for the Big Schools' Birdwatch. They will have opportunities to connect and care for the birds on our site. Year 6: Wingspan Hunting, X-Ray Skeleton Matching & Stick Wing Models LO: Match avian wing x-rays/skeletons to bird species based on wingspan, constructing scaled stick wing models outdoors to compare flight adaptations. Key Science Vocabulary: **homologous structures** **wingspan** **aspect ratio** **<u>Session 9 Winter and Shelter</u>** Summary of the Week: Facing the winter elements by pitching windproof shelters. Pupils will investigate the physical challenges of mid-winter frost, snow, and freezing winds by exploring how structural design, material density, and insulation principles create life-saving protection against extreme seasonal weather. Seasonal Links: Mid-Winter Frost, Snow, & Cold Weather.			

	LO :Investigate how water moves through materials and test natural water filtration methods. **Key Vocab** **Permeability** **Filtration** **Sediment** **<u>Session 3 Animals & Habitats</u>** Summary of the Week: To design and construct animal shelters using natural materials, demonstrating how structural features support animal survival in woodland micro-habitats. To develop a wildlife zone within out FS site Seasonal Links: World Habitat Day (5th Oct), Year 6 LO Design micro-habitats that mimic natural biomes and sow winter crops to support soil life. **Key Vocab** **Biome** **Ecosystem** **Organic matter** **<u>Session 4 Food and Fire</u>** – Summary - Making pumpkin soup over a campfire. Year 6: Chemical Changes (Irreversible Thermal Reactions) Learning Objective (LO): *I can explain why cooking food causes an irreversible change that cannot be undone.* **Key Vocab**	planting new native tree saplings. Seasonal Links: National Tree Week (21st–29th November). Year 6 Learning Objective (Science - Soil & Acids/Alkalis): Test soil quality beneath different tree species using sieves and pH testing tools. Discovery Activity - Soil Science Testing **<u>Session 7 Celebrations</u>** To make a tree decoration. Year 6: 3D Free-Standing Pyramid Tree LO (D&T - Make): *To construct a 3D pyramid tree frame using hand drills to bore socket holes into a solid wood base and tripod lashing to secure the apex.* **Key Vocabulary:** **Bore** **Apex** **3D Frame**	**<u>Year 6: Braced Timber & Cantilever A-Frame Fortress</u>** LO: Engineer a large-scale, freestanding timber A-frame shelter using square lashings, cross-bracing, and load-bearing timber joints. . **Key Vocabulary:** **sheer lashing** **cantilever** **counterweight** **<u>Session 10 - Imbolc</u>** To engage in hands-on, ancient Imbolc customs—weaving willow crosses, carving ceremonial hazel sticks, and crafting solar sun-catchers—to explore historical traditions, folklore, and cultural continuity surrounding the arrival of early spring. Year 6 LO: To analyse how ancient seasonal light festivals reflect cultural continuity across history and create a symbolic sun-disc design. **Key Vocabulary** **Symbolism** **Solstice** **Equinox**			

	Irreversible Chemical reaction Thermal decomposition					