

Errington Primary School

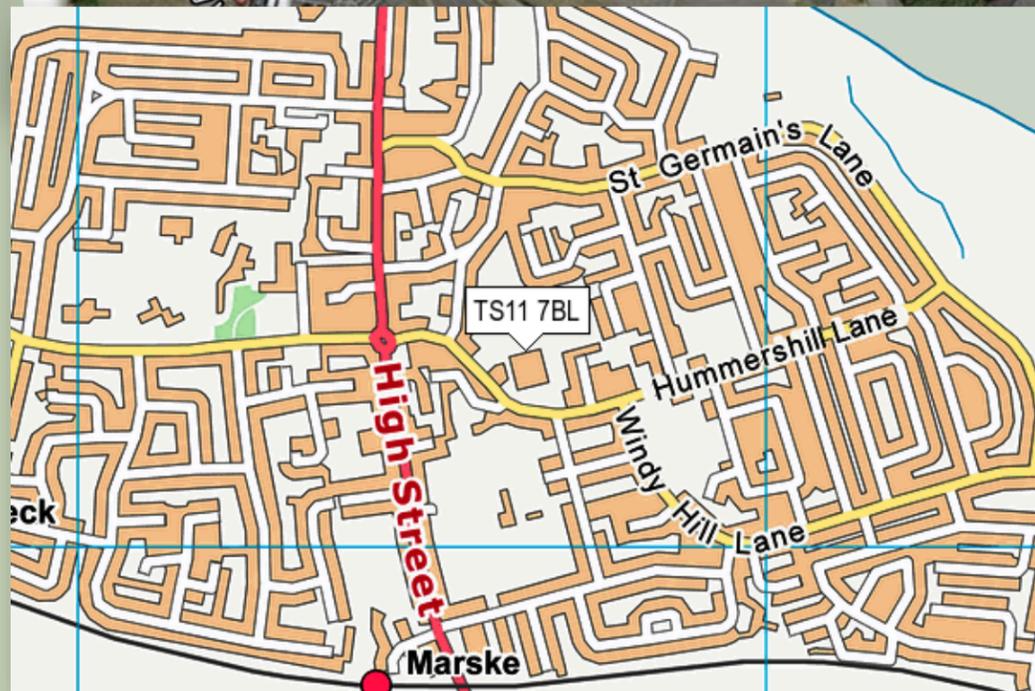
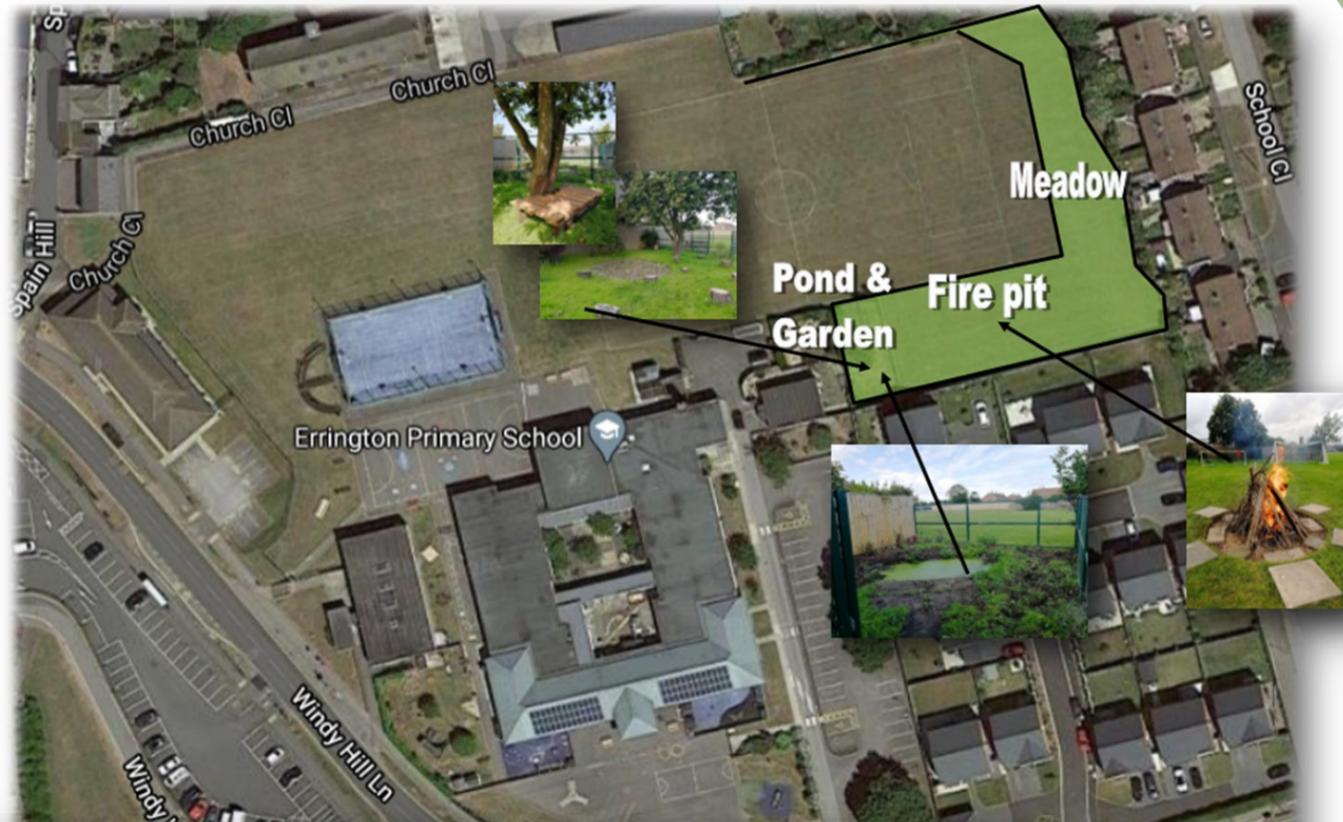


Rationale for Outdoor learning:

Outdoor Learning is a broad term that includes discovery, experimentation, learning about and connecting to the natural world, and engaging in environmental and adventure activities.

Outdoor learning involves the transformation of knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviours through direct engagement with the outdoor environment for the personal and social benefit of individuals, families, society and the planet.

(Institute of outdoor learning <https://www.outdoor-learning.org/>)



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Forest School

Outdoor & Adventurous Activities

Forest School Overview / definition

Forest school is an approach to spending time in the outdoor environment (inclusive of woodland) that fosters and promotes **'Nature Connectedness'** - *Natural England, March 2020*

It aims to provide hands on experiences in which participants can build independence and self esteem, through interaction with the natural world.

Errington Primary School aims to foster successful Outdoor Learning outcomes:

- P—Physical (Movement, health and wellbeing)
- I—Intellectual (Thinking and problem solving)
- L—Linguistic (Communication of ideas)
- E—Emotional (Empathy, self-control)
- S—Social (Community, companionship, compassion)
- S—Spiritual (Awe, wonder and a sense of place)



Forest School Activities:

Participants will partake in sessions that include:

- ⇒ Problem Solving
- ⇒ Team Work
- ⇒ Fire lighting, cooking on open fires
- ⇒ Use of bush craft tools (bow saw, sheath knife, bill hook and loppers)
- ⇒ Shelter building
- ⇒ Learning a selection of knots
- ⇒ Craft / creative activities
- ⇒ Imaginative / play activities



Additional Enrichment activities:

- ◇ Archery / target sports
- ◇ Orienteering and navigation
- ◇ Pioneering
- ◇ Circus skills (including slackline)
- ◇ Earth Education (Nature walks / sensory education activities)



PHILOSOPHY

Our philosophy for Outdoor Learning / Forest School is one of child centered learning in a natural setting. At Errington we aim to provide opportunities for appropriate risk taking, so that learners can develop interests and skills through practical, hands on experiences. We want to foster play, creativity and imagination, whilst outdoors and engaging with each other in collaboration.



Outdoor Learning at Errington:

3 Core Strands...

- Enrichment of curriculum
- Field work (Science and Geography)
- Stimulus for the creative arts
- PSHE / Wellbeing
- Environment for 'real world' practical application

EARTH EDUCATION



- Environmental Education
- Principles of Forest Schools
- Earth walks
- Sensory experiences

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM



OUTDOOR AND ADVENTUROUS ACTIVITIES

- PE and Physical Activity
- Adventurous experiences
- Competitive sports (e.g. orienteering)
- Team Building
- Personal development

Clothing / Equipment:

We want to be in outdoors in all weather—'**There is no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing'**

- Sturdy boots / wellingtons
- Long trousers / shirts (protection from scratches etc)
- Waterproof top
- Torch during afterschool activities in Winter months

Policy Information:



Forest School and Outdoor activities at Errington adhere to the wider school safeguarding, GDPR, Health and Safety and Equality policies. These can be obtained on the school's website: www.erringtonprimary.co.uk

Consent and Parental information:

Full written consent must be given for any participants of Forest School activities - forms will be issued prior to the commencement of sessions. All activities are fully Risk assessed—*information available on request.*

Insurance / disclaimers / DBS information:



Risk assessment is seen as an integral part of the Forest School and sessions offer participants to opportunity to take proportionate risks for the given environment and themselves. Staff are fully DBS checked and insurance covers all participants, in the use of tools and fire lighting. Details are available from the school office.

