**What to Expect at Our School in the Woods**

**Mud, bruises and challenge!**

Being outdoors in a wood does mean your child is likely to get muddy (that’s why we ask you to send a full change of clothes!) Over their time with us, as they climb trees and explore the undergrowth, they are also likely to get some scrapes and bumps. We have a ‘robust risk / benefit’ approach to our work—making sure that children have enough risk and challenge for growth whilst keeping them safe from serious harm. Therefore, we feel confident to offer some activities that involve cooking outside or using tools to make things —such as whittling knives, cooking knives, sewing needles, scissors and fire strikers.

**Being part of a community**

With the freedoms of being outside, of having choice and time to play, comes responsibilities. There are three rules at Our School in the Woods: look after yourself, look after others and look after the woods. We also have two core routines that underpin our community and create safety: coming to circles at the start of each activity session and the end of the day, and eating together at the main fire circle.

**Friendship and conflict**

At Our School in the Woods there is time and space for children to plan their own games, organise their own time and negotiate with others. As such, Our School in the Woods is socially demanding. A key aspect of our work therefore, is to support children to learn the skills needed to successfully navigate relationships. So, expect your child to be practising forming friendships, learning to deal with conflict, and gaining skills around empathy, kindness, turn taking and problem solving.

Sometimes things go wrong. Sometimes children will hurt each other with words or their bodies. In these instances we look after all the children, stopping the harm and creating connection through active listening. We make it clear that everyone has a right to feel safe and well looked after at Our School in the Woods. We then work with the children to resolve the conflict and repair relationships.

Often it is these sad moments that children will want to tell you about and process with you. Know though that they are usually short moments in a day filled with many other experiences.