

Little Squirrels



Outdoor Provision – Calais Muir Woods

Outdoor learning is a key part of the early years' curriculum. Duloch Nursery already use Calais Muir Woods to provide forest kindergarten and to extend this, enabling children to access the forest every day we have established the Little Squirrels Outdoor Nursery Pilot.

The pilot model will run between 9.00 am – 3.00 pm, on either Monday, Tuesday and again on Thursday, Friday during term time. Children will have a blended placement between Duloch Indoor Nursery and Little Squirrels Outdoor Nursery. Parents/Carers will be asked to drop children off at 9 am and collect them at 3.00 pm from the containers which are cited on the edge of the woodlands.



The containers are multi-functional with one providing storage for resources and learning materials and the other as a classroom area where the children gather to prepare for going to site and it is also used as a shelter in inclement weather.

Outdoor Clothing

Children should be dressed appropriately for being outdoors in all weathers. All in one splash suits and wellie boots will be available from the nursery but you may wish to provide your child with their own water-proof clothing.

How do I apply

Application forms are available from Duloch Primary School and should be returned via email (Duloch.enquiries@fife.gov.uk) by Monday 13th June 2022.

You will be informed of the outcome of your application by the end of term.



Adventure



Explore

Nature



Habitats

Imagination



Creativity



*Outdoor
Learning
Opportunities*

Season



Change

Wonder



Discovery

Risk



Challenge

Snack and Lunch

Children will be provided with a packed lunch and snack which is provided by Direct Catering. This is collected by a member of staff and brought to site daily. You can supply your own packed lunch for your child if you prefer but please be aware that these will be stored in the outdoor kitchen until lunchtime therefore you should ensure these contain foods that are suitable to remain un-refrigerated for this period of time.

Severe Weather Arrangements

In the case of severe weather i.e. high winds, we will move to the indoor nursery and garden.

Who is eligible ?

Initially all 3 and 4 year old children attending Duloch Nursery in August 2022 will be eligible to apply for the outdoor provision. However, only a maximum of 32 children can be given a place. A ballot will be held if places are oversubscribed. Parents can apply for their child to attend Monday & Tuesday or Thursday & Friday. Those children successful in getting a place will attend their normal nursery provision on the days they are not outdoors at Little Squirrels. For example

Child A attends Duloch Nursery Monday-Friday 9.00-3.00pm term time and are offered a place at the outdoor nursery Monday/Tuesday 9.00-3.00 pm term-time therefore they will attend Duloch indoor nursery Wednesday/Thursday/Friday 9,00-3.00 pm term time.

Child B attends Duloch Nursery Monday to Friday 8,00-12.40 for 49 weeks and are offered a place at the outdoor nursery Thursday-Friday 9.00-3.00 pm term-time therefore they will attend Duloch indoor nursery Monday-Wednesday 8.00-12.40 pm for 49 weeks.

For those 3 year olds starting nursery in August 2022 and who obtain a place at the outdoor nursery you can select to revert back to the original place they were offered for session 2023-24 if you wish.

Little Squirrels

At little squirrels we spend the whole day outdoors no matter what the weather. The only time we have to come indoors is if there is a severe weather warning which makes it unsafe to be in the woods. The children have the freedom to explore and connect with nature, where they lead their own learning, creating their own learning journeys while supported by skilled and experienced staff.

Safety is very important and in collaboration with the children we agree the forest rules, so children know where the boundaries are and how to respond to different situations. Children are encouraged to challenge themselves to develop their awareness of risk and how to keep themselves safe.

Toileting facilities are provided in the toilet tent.

On occasions we go on adventures to explore different parts of the forest.

We have two sites which we use throughout the year



Winter Site



Summer Site

Days are always very busy and each day provides different learning opportunities.....puddles are a favourite !!

Daily Routine

After registration at the containers, we head to camp where on arrival we gather in the snack area to go over our forest rules and children choose what they would like for lunch before going off to play and explore. They are free to access and choose the activities on offer which are linked to their interests and seasonal topics.

The children are given the opportunity to share their learning through different mediums e.g. our Forest Floor Book, which is very popular.

We have morning and afternoon snacks along with lunch which are provided from the school kitchen and brought to site, if you prefer you can provide your child with a packed lunch.

After afternoon snack the children help to tidy up and pack away the resources and equipment then we head back to the containers for pick up time.

If you have to pick up your child early, can you inform a member of staff and you will have to come to site for pick up.

Also, if there is a change of person who is picking up your child can you phone the school office and they will contact us.

Duloch School Office - 01383 602457

Your child will have an outdoor and indoor Key worker who will work together to share learning and contribute to PLJ's.

If you have any queries regarding the outdoor nursery provision

Please contact Duloch Primary School

(Duloch.enquiries@fife.gov.uk)