



GREENSHAW
LEARNING TRUST



Teaching Assistant – Forest 31.25 hours

**ALWAYS
LEARNING**

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Dear candidate,

We are seeking to appoint a dedicated and resourceful Forest School Assistant to work with our Forest School Leader to deliver our outdoor learning curriculum. The successful candidate will be someone who enjoys being outdoors (whatever the weather) and has an interest in the environment.

Our outdoor learning curriculum aims to develop children's confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences in our large on-site woodland. Every child at Crown Wood benefits from our forest school, typically spending one morning or afternoon a week in the forest for 6-12 weeks each year. Children with social, mental or emotional health difficulties (SMEH) have additional weekly sessions. During Forest Learning sessions, children learn about – and how to respect – the natural world and get the chance to do activities such as whittling greenwood, cooking over fire, den building, mud kitchen, natural arts and crafts, planting / gardening, bug hunting and role play.

This post is suitable for someone starting out in a career in outdoor learning or is already working in a similar role. Forest School Leader qualification and other relevant training will be provided.

Crown Wood Primary School and Nursery is a 3 forms of entry (3FE) academy situated to the south east of Bracknell town centre. The original building, which opened in 1984, was extended in 2014 and the school boasts large grounds, including our own – on site – forest school. Around 600 children are currently on roll and we are increasingly a school and nursery of choice in Bracknell Forest.

The school joined the Greenshaw Learning Trust (GLT) in June 2017. At GLT's heart is effective collaboration and the sharing of the very best practice, not only between its own schools, but also with other like-minded organisations, to improve the life chances of the children it serves. The Trust promotes the individuality of each school, believing headteachers and local governing bodies are best placed to run its schools.

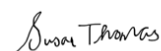
At Crown Wood, we are committed to ensuring children not only have a solid grounding in English and Maths, but also the skills, values and attitudes they need to be successful in their next stage of education and beyond. These include being aspirational, resilience, an ability to work collaboratively, curiosity and having a 'go for it' attitude. We strongly believe being prepared to learn from mistakes, effort, practice and acting on feedback leads to success and not innate talent or ability.

We aim to provide a safe and stimulating learning environment that encourages children to grow and develop in an atmosphere of mutual respect. We have high expectations in all areas, especially behaviour and attainment.

At Crown Wood, we know our most important asset is our staff team. We offer an open, collaborative and friendly working environment, great children and supportive parents and governors and a commitment to your continuing professional development.

We encourage applications from candidates regardless of age, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, pregnancy, marital status, religion, belief, or race. Crown Wood Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, therefore this appointment will be subject to vetting, including an enhanced DBS disclosure.

Yours faithfully,



Susan Thomas
Acting Co-Headteachers



Caroline Winchcombe
Acting Co-Headteachers

Dare to DREAM
Determination – Responsibility – Everyone Together
Aspiration & Achievement – Mutual Respect

Greenshaw Learning Trust – ‘Always Learning’

The GLT is a successful multi academy trust that provides high quality comprehensive, non-selective and inclusive education. The Trust is committed to meeting the needs of every student and our schools offer a broad curriculum and wide range of special needs provision in a welcoming and challenging environment.

We are extremely proud of our success, but we are not complacent. We believe that we can – as an academy trust, as schools and as individuals – always improve. We are all ‘Always Learning’.

Each school in the GLT is led by its own leadership team and a governing body, which have the support of the wider Trust to help them achieve their objectives for their school. Being part of the Trust provides our schools with an effective structure, collaboration, and support. Our culture of trust and openness fosters mutual support and continual improvement.

School-to-school collaboration is enabled by regular contact between school leaders. Our shared services professionals provide a wide range of effective, rapid and flexible support, advice and guidance to our schools, including curriculum support, school improvement, staff training and development, admissions, attendance, behaviour, safeguarding and SEND, pupil services, estates, finance, HR, IT, catering, clerking, procurement and governance.

From its establishment as a multi academy trust in 2014, the Trust has grown significantly and currently employs around 2,600 people and educates over 16,705 students. We have approval to open a new secondary special school in South London and we are planning to grow further over the coming months and years. Further information about our schools can be found [here](#).

The Greenshaw Learning Trust Mission Statement

We are ambitious for our schools and their students. We believe that there is no ceiling on what can be achieved by anyone, regardless of their circumstances or background.

We are committed to providing a supportive and inclusive learning environment, giving every young person the opportunity to fulfil their potential now, and in the future.

We seek to realise the power of individuals and organisations working together in collaboration whilst retaining their individuality, and we recognise that we can always improve.

Greenshaw Learning Trust Employee Benefits

The GLT recognises that our employees are our most important asset, and we are aware that the quality and commitment of our employees is critical to our success. We offer all our employees the following staff benefits:

- A supportive ethos and concern for the well-being of all colleagues.
- Excellent CPD opportunities and career progression.
- Employer Contributions to Local Government or Teachers Pension Scheme.
- Cycle to work scheme.
- Gym membership scheme.
- Employee Assistance Programme.
- Eye Care Voucher scheme.
- Childcare Voucher Scheme
- Car Benefit Scheme
- My Health discounts

Terms and Conditions

Role:	Teaching Assistant (Forest)
Line Managed by:	Forest School Leader
Contract:	Permanent
Salary:	Salary calculated in line with NJC Grades J-K SP 2-6 FTE: £21,104 - £22,631 Actual salary: £14,996 - £16,081
Hours of Work:	Part time 31.25 hours per week, Monday-Friday, Term time only
Place of Work:	Crown Wood Primary School
Medical Examination:	The appointment is subject to a satisfactory medical report.
Superannuation:	Under the Social Security Act 1986 the post holder has the right to make their own pension arrangements. They may choose to contribute to the Local Government Pension Scheme or a Personal Pension Scheme. Details of the Local Government Pension Scheme are available at: https://www.lgpsmember.org
Probation Period:	New employees are required to complete a six-month probationary period.
Disclosure & Barring Service Check:	Crown Wood Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, therefore this appointment will be subject to vetting, including an enhanced DBS disclosure. The appointment is subject to the receipt of a satisfactory enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check.
Right to Work Check:	This appointment is subject to verification of the right to work in the UK. Where the successful candidate has worked or been resident overseas in the last five years, such checks and confirmations may be required in accordance with the statutory guidance.

Job Description – Teaching Assistant (Forest)

Job Title: Teaching Assistant 1 (TA1) (Forest) with Lunchtime Support Assistant (LSA) Role	Location: Crown Wood Primary School
Grade:	Hours: 31.25 per week, term time only (8.30am – 3.15pm with 30 minutes for lunch)

JOB PURPOSE

- To assist the learning of individuals or groups of children under the direct instruction of the Forest School Leader (HLTA).
- To provide general support to the class teacher in the management and care of individual and groups of children in the forest school environment.
- To undertake administrative tasks as directed by the Forest School Leader (HLTA).
- To occasionally supervise children during lunchtime and to extend learning by developing social skills and independence and promoting 'active play' and healthy eating.
- To support the work of the Nurture Team to support social, emotional and mental health and to promote resilience, confidence and self- esteem.

DESIGNATION OF POST AND POSITION WITHIN DEPARTMENTAL STRUCTURE

The postholder reports to the Forest School Leader (HLTA) and Lunchtime Team Leader(s) during teaching times and the Lunchtime Supervisor during lunchtimes.

MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Specific Duties:

Under direct instruction of the Forest School Leader (HLTA), class teacher or Senior Leadership Team (SLT):

- Support the Forest School Leader to deliver the forest school curriculum.
- To supervise and support children with varying needs during sessions.
- Support the Forest School Leader to create and maintain an engaging, purposeful and supportive outdoor environment.
- Support the Forest School Leader and / or class teacher in managing behaviour and to report difficulties as appropriate.
- Prepare and routinely maintain forest school materials and resources, assist children in their use and to clear them away afterwards.
- To support the Forest School Leader to check and maintain tools and other equipment.
- To support the Forest School Leader by undertaking some routine maintenance and 'housekeeping' tasks as required.
- Contribute, under the direction of the Forest School Leader, to the monitoring, evaluation and recording of pupil progress through a range of assessment strategies.
- Provide accurate and objective feedback and reports on pupil achievement, progress and other matters, keeping appropriate records.
- To support the Forest School Leader to ensure the health and safety of all participants, including undertaking risk assessments for the site, tools and activities.
- Under the direction and supervision of qualified staff, assist in the delivery of activities enhancing children's social and educational development.

General Duties:

Under direct instruction of the Forest School Leader (HLTA), class teacher or Senior Leadership Team (SLT):

- Provide for the children's welfare/personal care both individually and in groups and ensure their safety. **This could include the administration of medicines to children.**
- Promote inclusion, establish constructive working relationships with pupils, act as a role model, set high expectations and provide feedback on progress and achievement.
- Be aware of children with known behaviour problems or who are vulnerable for any reason.
- Be aware of children with known medical conditions.
- Be aware of children's problems and achievements and report them to the Forest School Leader and / or class teacher as appropriate.
- To be responsible at all times for high standards of care and education of all participants.
- Provide clerical and administrative support.
- Comply with policies and procedures relating to child protection, health, safety, welfare, security, confidentiality and data protection, reporting any concerns to the appropriate person.
- Actively support the schools and Trust's equal opportunity policies and ensure that all children have an equal access to opportunities to learn and develop.
- Contribute to the overall aims and targets of the school and Trust, appreciate and support the roles of other members of the school work team and attend relevant meetings as required.
- Be aware of and take part in the schools performance management framework and participate in training and development activities as required.
- Undertake any other similar duties as required.
- **The post holder is responsible for ensuring that the school's Safeguarding Policy is adhered to and concerns are raised in accordance with this policy.**

Break & Lunchtime Duties:

Under direct instruction of the Lunchtime Team Leader:

- Provide supervision (including the play equipment) to ensure the children's safety at all times; have an awareness of where children are; Remain in designated areas to ensure adequate supervision.
- Report accidents and complete accident form as necessary; Undertake First aid when required.
- Be aware of children with known medical conditions.
- Organise, encourage and / or lead children in the establishment of suitable activities and games, including the use of equipment.
- Implement the school's behaviour policy, ensuring that expectations of behaviour are the same outside as in the classroom; complete logs and report, where appropriate, incidents to the class teacher or senior staff.
- Be aware of children with known behaviour problems or who are vulnerable for any reason and provide pastoral support as required.
- Comply with guidelines and policies as set out by the school.
- Support children while they eat their lunch, making sure tables are clean and that water is available.

- Encourage independence and promote healthy eating, social skills and good table manners.
- Ensure the dining areas are left clean and help set up and clear away as required.
- Undertake other duties, compatible to the role, as directed by the Headteacher.

Person Specification – Teaching Assistant (Forest)

The successful candidate will meet the following person specification. Please note that the listed criteria will form the basis of the selection process. Applicants should address all elements of the Person Specification, demonstrating experience and where appropriate citing supporting examples within their application.

PERSON SPECIFICATION		
Key Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications & Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GCSE Grade C or better (or equivalent) in English and Maths Willingness to undertake Level 1 Forest Leader qualification Willingness to undertake safeguarding training Willingness to undertake formal first aid training Willingness to undertake Team Teach or other positive handling training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level 1 Forest Leader qualification or willingness to gain it Outdoor learning qualification or substantial experience. Formal TA or Childcare Qualification Working with or caring for children of relevant age(s) Experience of working with children with emotional difficulties and / or challenging behaviour. Formal First Aid Training
Knowledge and understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic childcare and health and safety knowledge. Some knowledge of effective behaviour management techniques. Some knowledge of children's social, emotional and behaviour needs and how to support these. Some knowledge of age-appropriate outdoor activities including games and crafts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good knowledge and understanding of child development and learning Good knowledge of age-appropriate outdoor activities including games and crafts. Good knowledge and understanding of child development and learning. Good of children's social, emotional and behaviour needs and how to support these.
Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to relate well to children and adults. Respond sensitively and flexibly to competing demands from children. Willing to lead games and other activities at lunchtime. Ability to work constructively as part of a team. Ability to use basic technology – photocopier, computer etc. Possesses skills to undertake general clerical/administrative tasks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skilled in leading games and other activities at lunchtime. Skilled in supporting the social / emotional needs of children (i.e. providing pastoral support). Skilled in supporting children with special educational needs).

<p>Personal characteristics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitability to work with Children and committed to safeguarding children. • Ability to maintain a safe, calm and happy approach. • Willingness to work outdoors in all weathers. • Willingness to participate in development and training opportunities. • Willingness to provide necessary personal care to children. • Committed to equality of opportunity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist teaching staff in dealing with parents and carers.
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The Recruitment Process

1. Application

To apply for a staff vacancy, please register for an online account to complete the application form. Please visit our website <https://www.greenshawlearningtrust.co.uk/join-us/staff> . The recruitment process is managed via your online account and you will receive regular notifications regarding the progress of your application.

The completed online application form should be accompanied by a personal statement of suitability of no more than 2 sides of A4. In the application form and personal statement, you should demonstrate how you meet the requirements set out in the Person Specification. Please include specific examples which support your application.

Applications must be received no later than 9am on Friday 7th July 2023. Applications received after this date and time will not be considered.

2. Shortlisting

Shortlisting will be finalised on Friday 7th July 2023. Shortlisted applicants will be invited by telephone to attend an interview. Please make sure you have indicated clearly day and evening telephone numbers on which you can be reached. References will be taken up after shortlisting.

3. Interview Process

Interviews will be held on Tuesday 11th July 2023.

4. Feedback

Unsuccessful shortlisted applicants will have the opportunity for professional feedback during the week following the interviews.

5. Taking up post

The successful applicant will take up the post as soon as possible.

6. Additional information

For further information, please contact Liz Johnson, School Operations Manager on liz.johnson@crownwoodprimaryschool.co.uk, or call the school on 01344 485448.

7. Safeguarding

Greenshaw Learning Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be subject to an Enhanced DBS and barred list check.