

# Jordans School – Forest School Risk Benefit Assessment

Assessment Date: Autumn Term 26 Sept 2022 – 09 January 2023

Termly Update Required: 09 Jan 2023

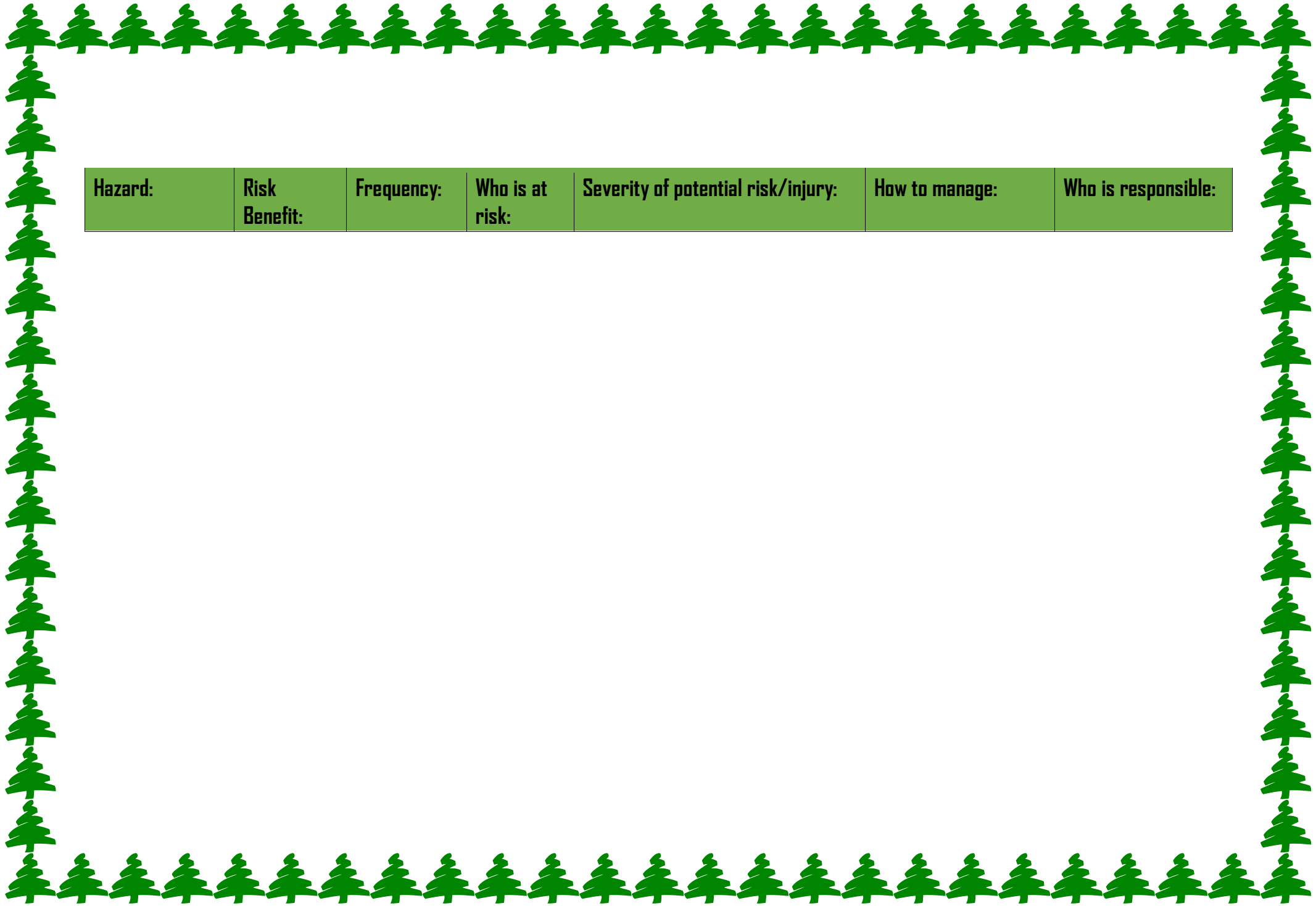
Name of Assessor: Michelle Finn

<b>Description of process, activity or task to be risk assessed</b>	Forest School – General routines and woodland
<b>Describe the location where the activities are taking place</b>	Jordans Forest School – Jordans Woodland
<b>Describe the equipment and/or substances being used</b>	Woodland area
<b>Describe the people involved in the activities (and others who might be affected)</b>	Staff and children

Low risk: May result in slight harm (bruise/graze/scratch or minor damage)

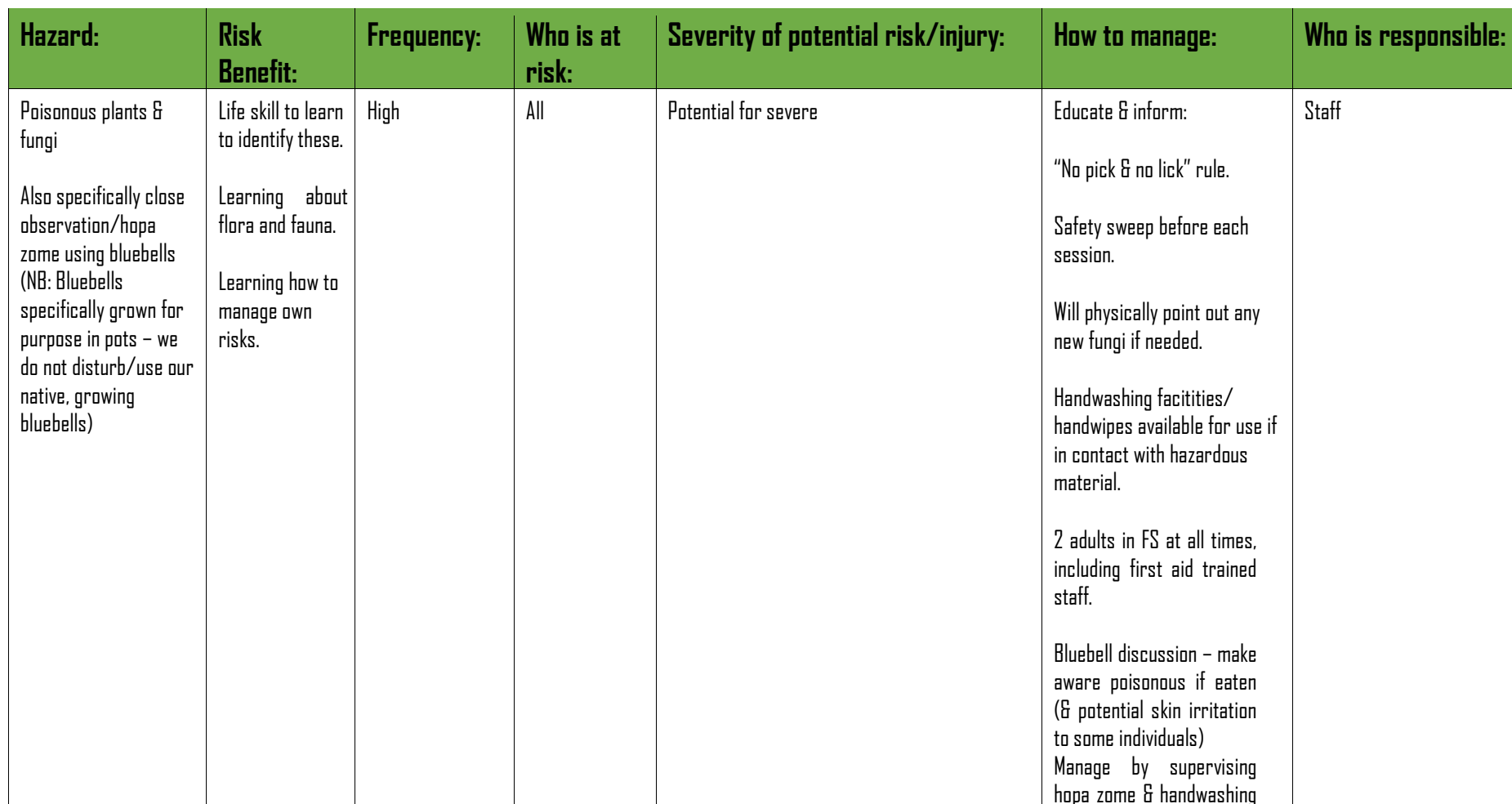
Medium risk: May result in significant damage/loss/injury (e.g. broken bone or other injury which could need hospital treatment)

High risk: May result in extensive injury/damage or even death.

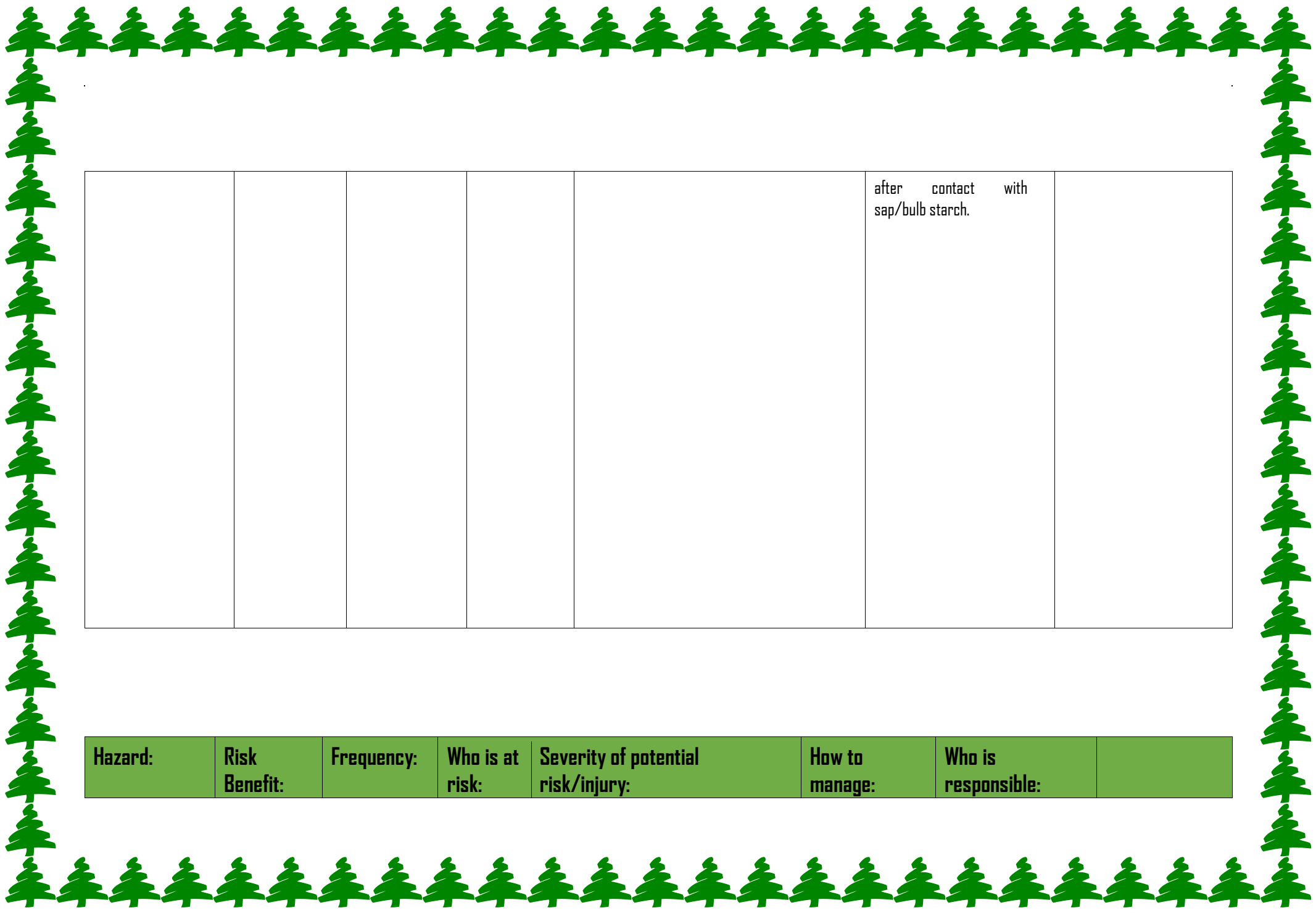


Hazard:	Risk Benefit:	Frequency:	Who is at risk:	Severity of potential risk/injury:	How to manage:	Who is responsible:
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Trip hazards – (e.g. roots/low branches/plants/logs)	Developing balance & core strength whilst managing movement through woodland,	High	All	Potential for severe if fall and hit head/breaks.	<p>Inform &amp; educate to make all aware of trip risks. Recommend safe movement.</p> <p>Only use area when light.</p> <p>Maintain some clear walkways with no additional man-made trip hazards.</p> <p>Wear suitable footwear (e.g. wellies or trainers with some grip) &amp; long sleeves/legs covered to minimise grazes.</p> <p>Safety sweep before every session.</p> <p>2 adults in FS at all times, including first aid trained staff.</p>	<p>All (once briefed)</p> <p>FSL</p>
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Hazard:	Risk Benefit:	Frequency:	Who is at risk:	Severity of potential risk/injury:	How to manage:	Who is responsible:
<p>Poisonous plants &amp; fungi</p> <p>Also specifically close observation/hopa zome using bluebells (NB: Bluebells specifically grown for purpose in pots – we do not disturb/use our native, growing bluebells)</p>	<p>Life skill to learn to identify these.</p> <p>Learning about flora and fauna.</p> <p>Learning how to manage own risks.</p>	High	All	Potential for severe	<p>Educate &amp; inform:</p> <p>“No pick &amp; no lick” rule.</p> <p>Safety sweep before each session.</p> <p>Will physically point out any new fungi if needed.</p> <p>Handwashing facilities/ handwipes available for use if in contact with hazardous material.</p> <p>2 adults in FS at all times, including first aid trained staff.</p> <p>Bluebell discussion – make aware poisonous if eaten (&amp; potential skin irritation to some individuals)</p> <p>Manage by supervising hopa zome &amp; handwashing</p>	Staff



					after contact with sap/bulb starch.	
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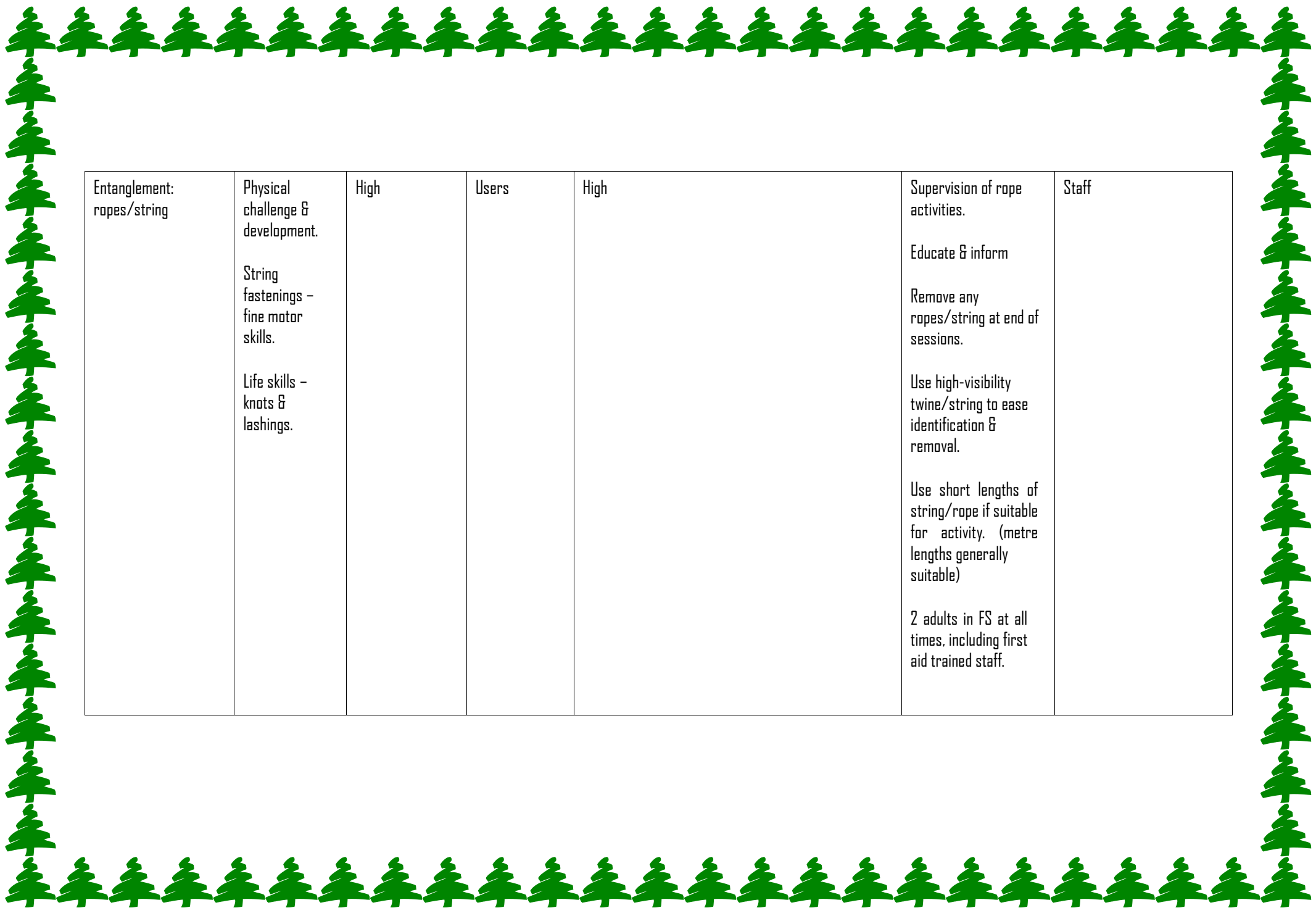
<b>Hazard:</b>	<b>Risk Benefit:</b>	<b>Frequency:</b>	<b>Who is at risk:</b>	<b>Severity of potential risk/injury:</b>	<b>How to manage:</b>	<b>Who is responsible:</b>	
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Slopes & Ditches/ slippery ground	Physical development, balance and core stability.  Negotiating and coordinating movement in uneven terrain.  Managing own risks.	High	All	Medium due to small sizes and limited falling.	Educate & inform – spotting slippery surfaces.  Maintain one easier route to log circle to enable simple access -reducing need to cross steeper slopes.  Potential for installing rope for pulling up if appears needed for cohort.	Staff	
					2 adults in FS at all times, including first aid trained staff.		

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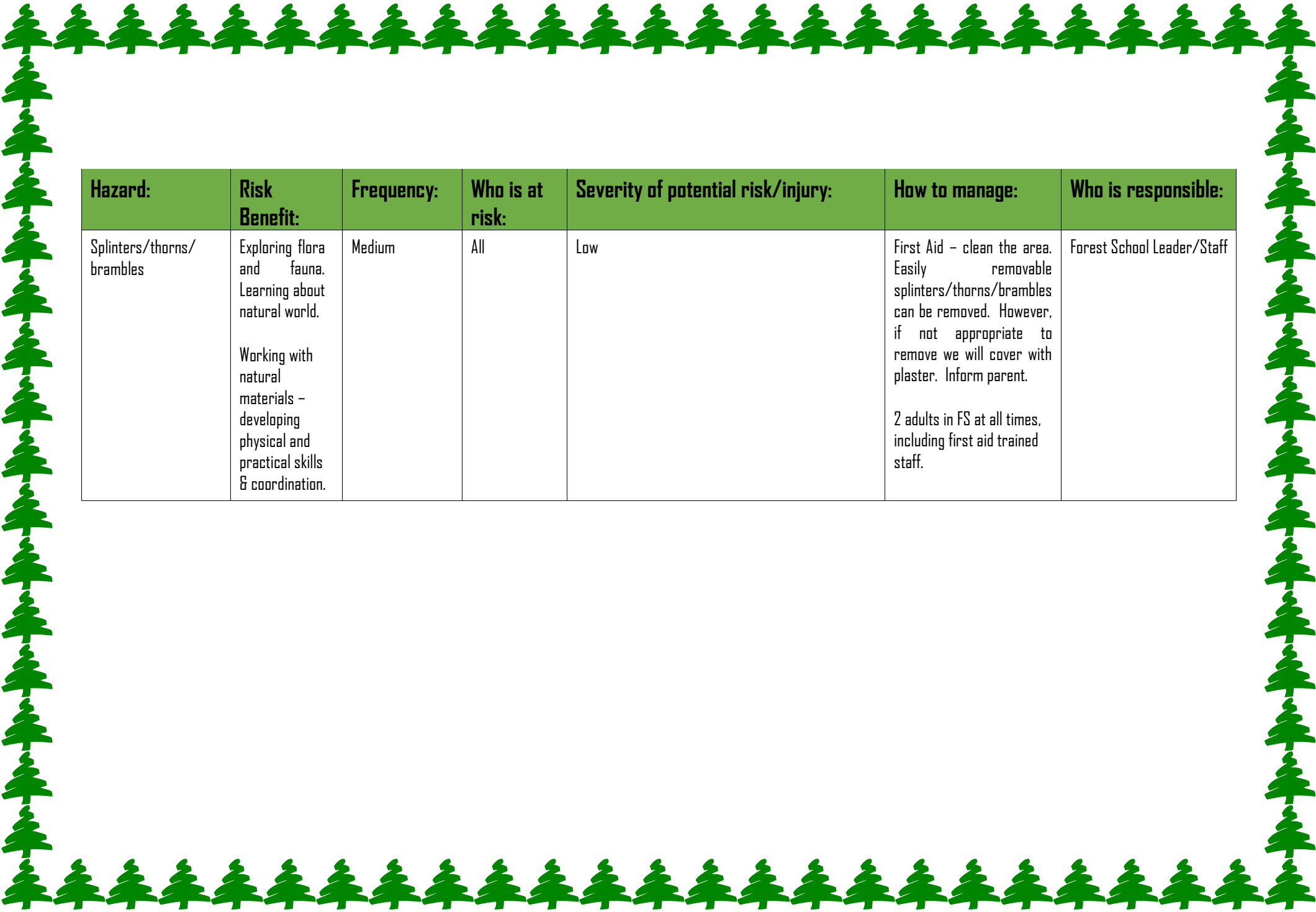
Balancing logs & planks	Physical development, balance, core strength	Low	Users	High	<p>Risk of falling off will be explained.</p> <p>Supervised area.</p> <p>Monitor conditions to ensure not too slippery for use.</p> <p>2 adults in FS at all times, including first aid trained staff.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>Staff</p> <p>Staff</p>
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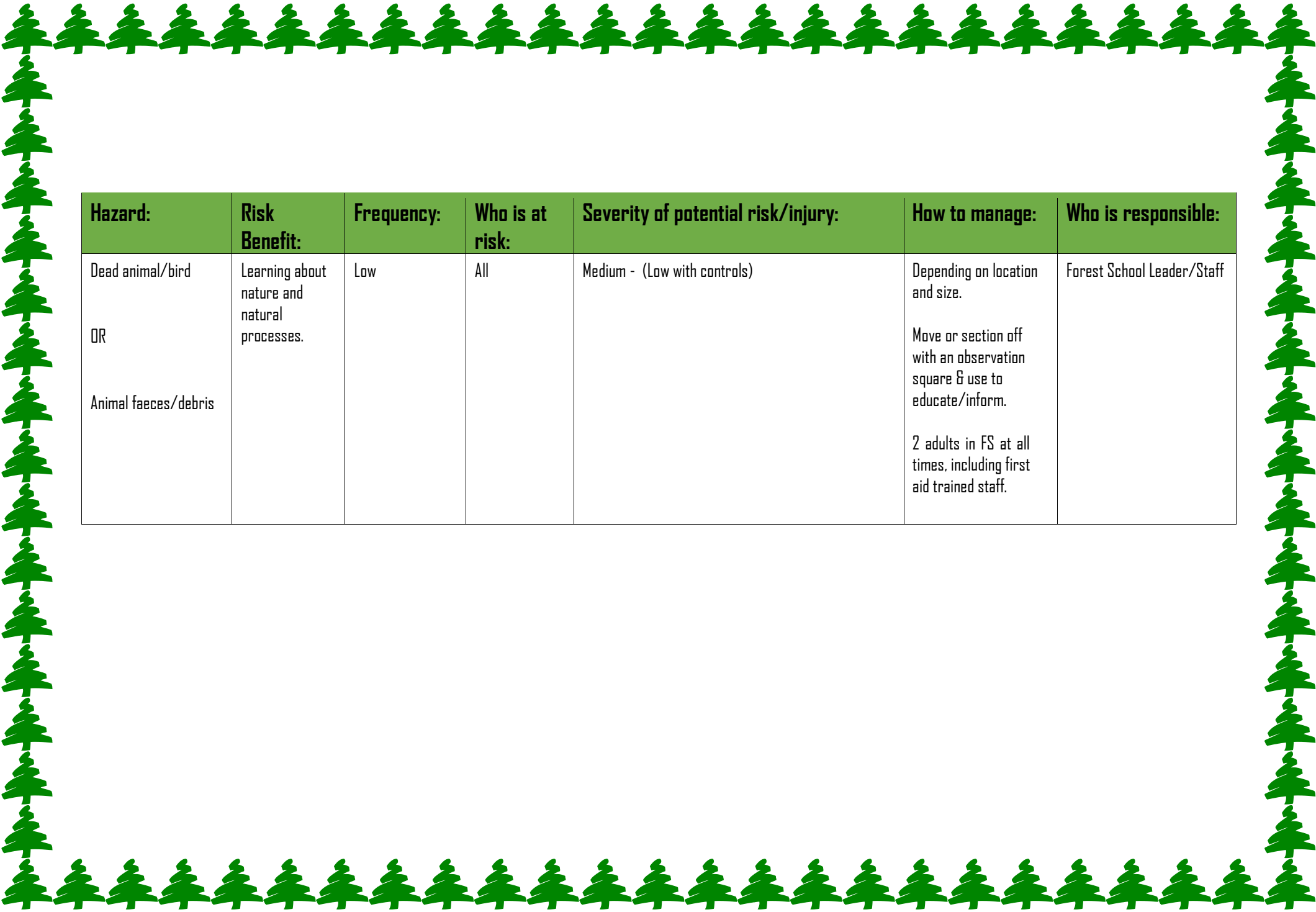
Entanglement: ropes/string	Physical challenge & development.  String fastenings – fine motor skills.  Life skills – knots & lashings.	High	Users	High	Supervision of rope activities.  Educate & inform  Remove any ropes/string at end of sessions.  Use high-visibility twine/string to ease identification & removal.  Use short lengths of string/rope if suitable for activity. (metre lengths generally suitable)  2 adults in FS at all times, including first aid trained staff.	Staff
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Hazard:	Risk Benefit:	Frequency:	Who is at risk:	Severity of potential risk/injury:	How to manage:	Who is responsible:
Stinging/Prickling plants	<p>Identification of flora &amp; fauna is a life skill.</p> <p>Blackberries &amp; roses growing on prickly bushes provide learning and exploration opportunities.</p>	<p>Low due to limited numbers of such plants</p> <p>(Increased bramble growth this year)</p>	All	Low	<p>Educate &amp; inform</p> <p>"No picking &amp; no licking"</p> <p>2 adults in FS at all times, including first aid trained staff.</p>	<p>Staff</p> <p>All</p>

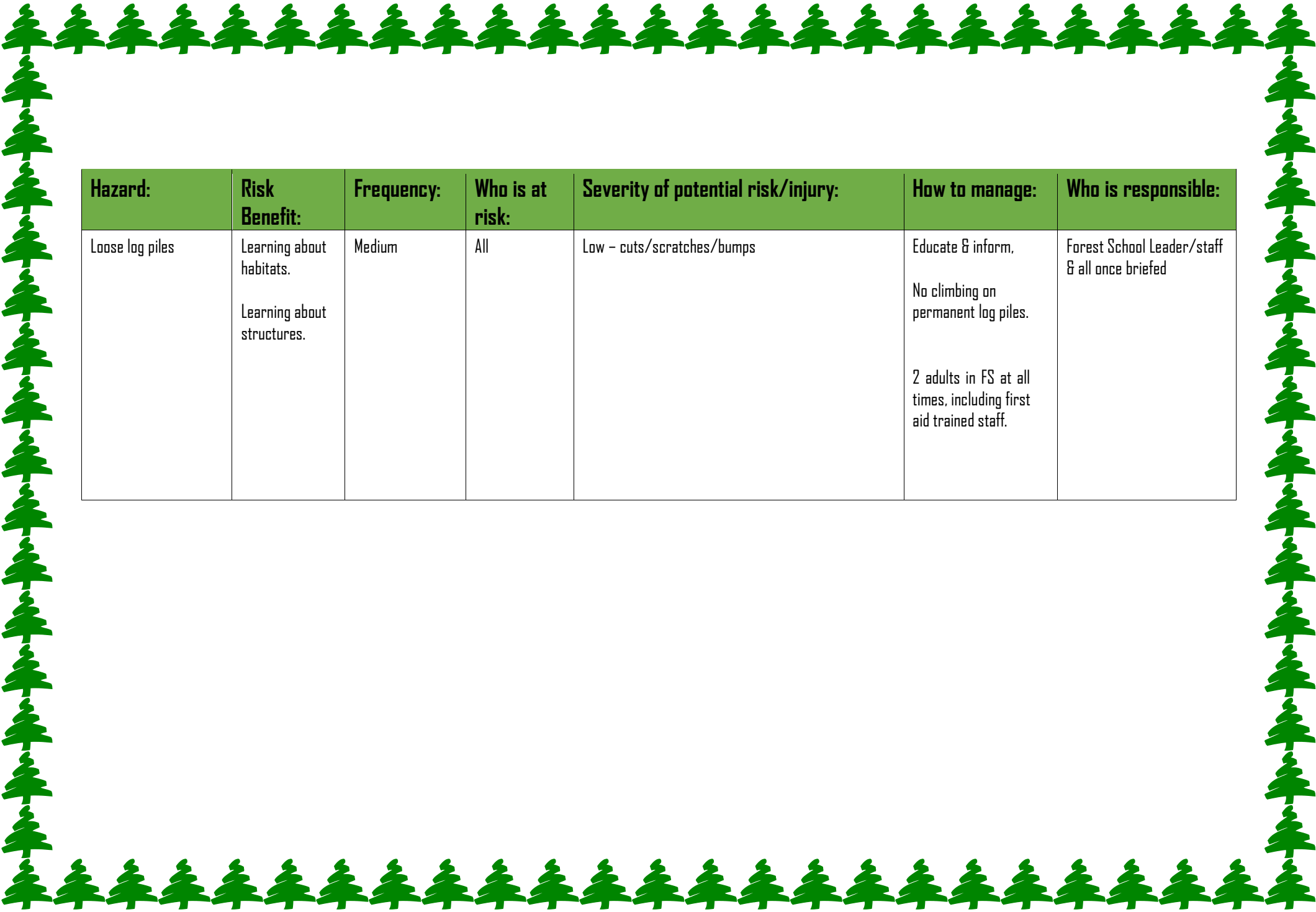


Hazard:	Risk Benefit:	Frequency:	Who is at risk:	Severity of potential risk/injury:	How to manage:	Who is responsible:
Splinters/thorns/ brambles	Exploring flora and fauna. Learning about natural world.  Working with natural materials – developing physical and practical skills & coordination.	Medium	All	Low	First Aid – clean the area. Easily removable splinters/thorns/brambles can be removed. However, if not appropriate to remove we will cover with plaster. Inform parent.  2 adults in FS at all times, including first aid trained staff.	Forest School Leader/Staff

Hazard:	Risk Benefit:	Frequency:	Who is at risk:	Severity of potential risk/injury:	How to manage:	Who is responsible:
Ticks/stinging & biting insects	Life skills to identify and live with flora & fauna	Medium (& seasonal)	All – need additional information regarding any individual allergies.	<p>Ticks – high</p> <p>Allergy – high</p> <p>Other – medium/low</p>	<p>Long clothing – sleeves &amp; legs covered.</p> <p>Educate &amp; inform. (Advise parents to look out for any sign of bites/ticks if needed)</p> <p>Medical form – check for allergies. Record and inform all staff of any reported.</p> <p>First Aid kit – clean area. Inform parent of any known bite or sting.</p> <p>2 adults in FS at all times, including first aid trained staff.</p>	Forest School Leader/Staff



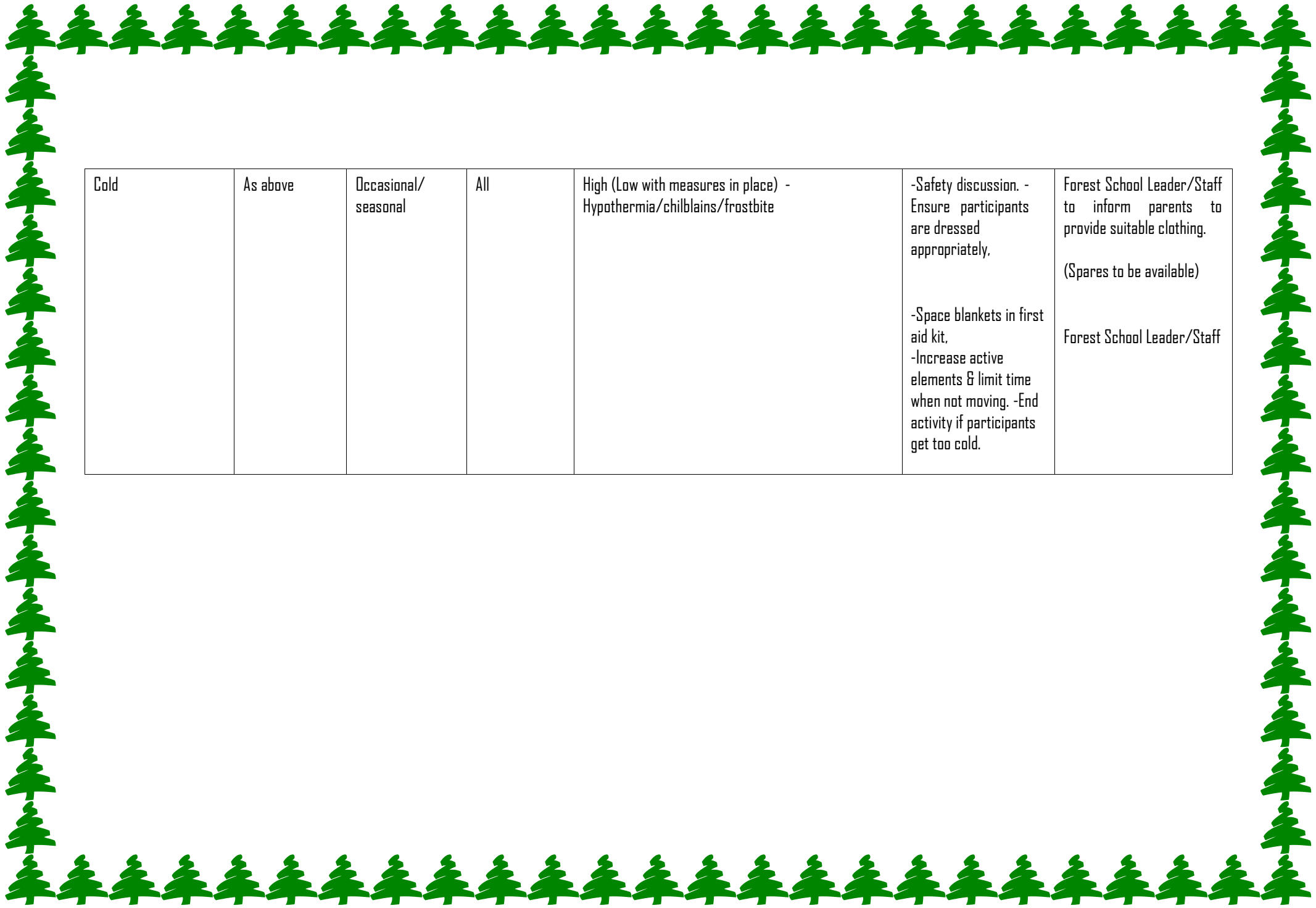
Hazard:	Risk Benefit:	Frequency:	Who is at risk:	Severity of potential risk/injury:	How to manage:	Who is responsible:
Dead animal/bird  OR  Animal faeces/debris	Learning about nature and natural processes.	Low	All	Medium - (Low with controls)	Depending on location and size.  Move or section off with an observation square & use to educate/inform.  2 adults in FS at all times, including first aid trained staff.	Forest School Leader/Staff



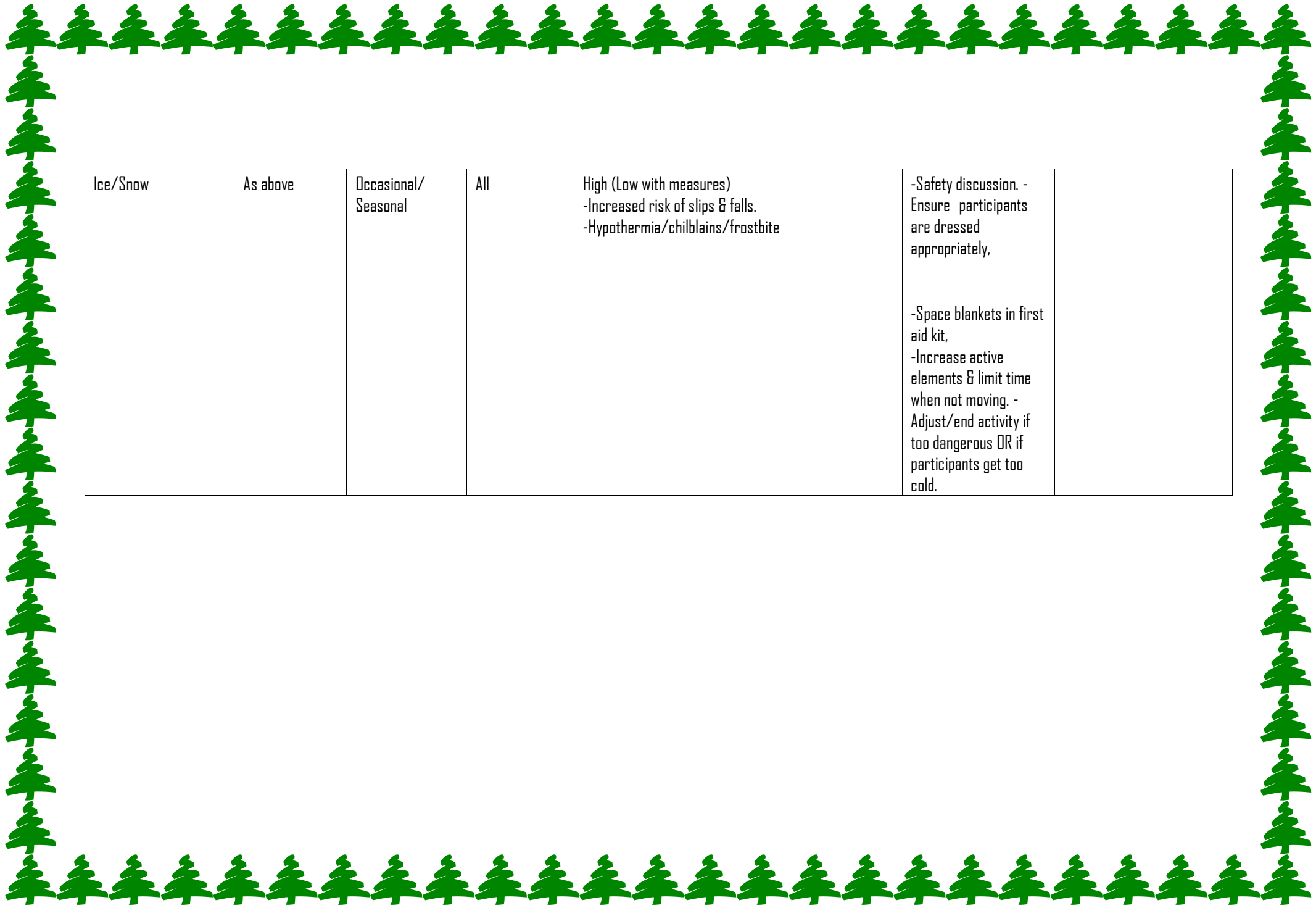
Hazard:	Risk Benefit:	Frequency:	Who is at risk:	Severity of potential risk/injury:	How to manage:	Who is responsible:
Loose log piles	<p>Learning about habitats.</p> <p>Learning about structures.</p>	Medium	All	Low – cuts/scratches/bumps	<p>Educate &amp; inform,</p> <p>No climbing on permanent log piles.</p> <p>2 adults in FS at all times, including first aid trained staff.</p>	Forest School Leader/staff & all once briefed

Weather Conditions						
Hazard:	Risk Benefit:	Frequency:	Who is at risk:	Severity of potential risk/injury:	How to manage:	Who is responsible:
All weather Forest School (except very high winds/lightening)	<p>Experience of the elements and development of an understanding of nature.</p> <p>Life skills – how to prepare for conditions.</p>	High – throughout seasons there will be variations in conditions.	All	See detail below	<p>See detail below</p> <p>Monitor weather conditions. Have hats for all seasons – warm ones for cold conditions &amp; sun hats for hot weather.</p> <p>Wear long sleeves &amp; trousers in all seasons</p>	<p>Forest School Leader/Staff will agree if conditions are suitable for running Forest School.</p> <p>Conditions will be checked (weather forecast &amp; ion day) in advance of sessions so suitable plans/equipment can be used/available.</p>

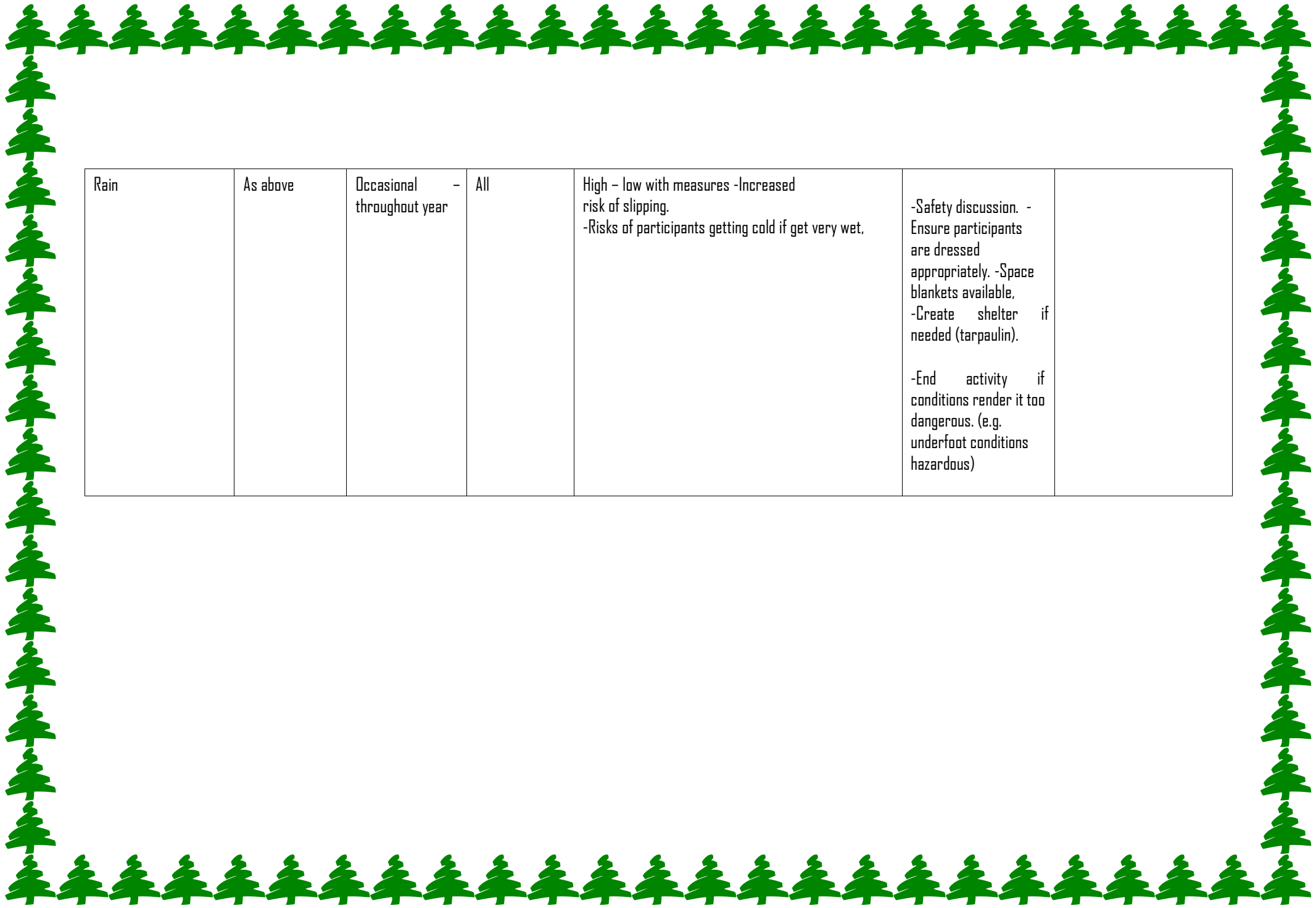
Sun exposure	As above	Occasional infrequent (seasonal)	All	High (Low with measures in place) - Heatstroke /Sunburn/ Sun Stroke	<p>-Appropriate safety discussion.</p> <p>-Ensure participants are appropriately dressed for conditions.</p> <p>-Have water available throughout session in hot weather.</p> <p>-Sun Cream (provided from home)</p> <p>-Shady options/ shelters provided.</p> <p>-Monitor children for signs of overheating.</p>	<p>Forest School Leader/Staff to inform parents to provide suitable clothing &amp; water bottles.</p> <p>(Spares to be available)</p> <p>Forest School Leader/Staff</p>
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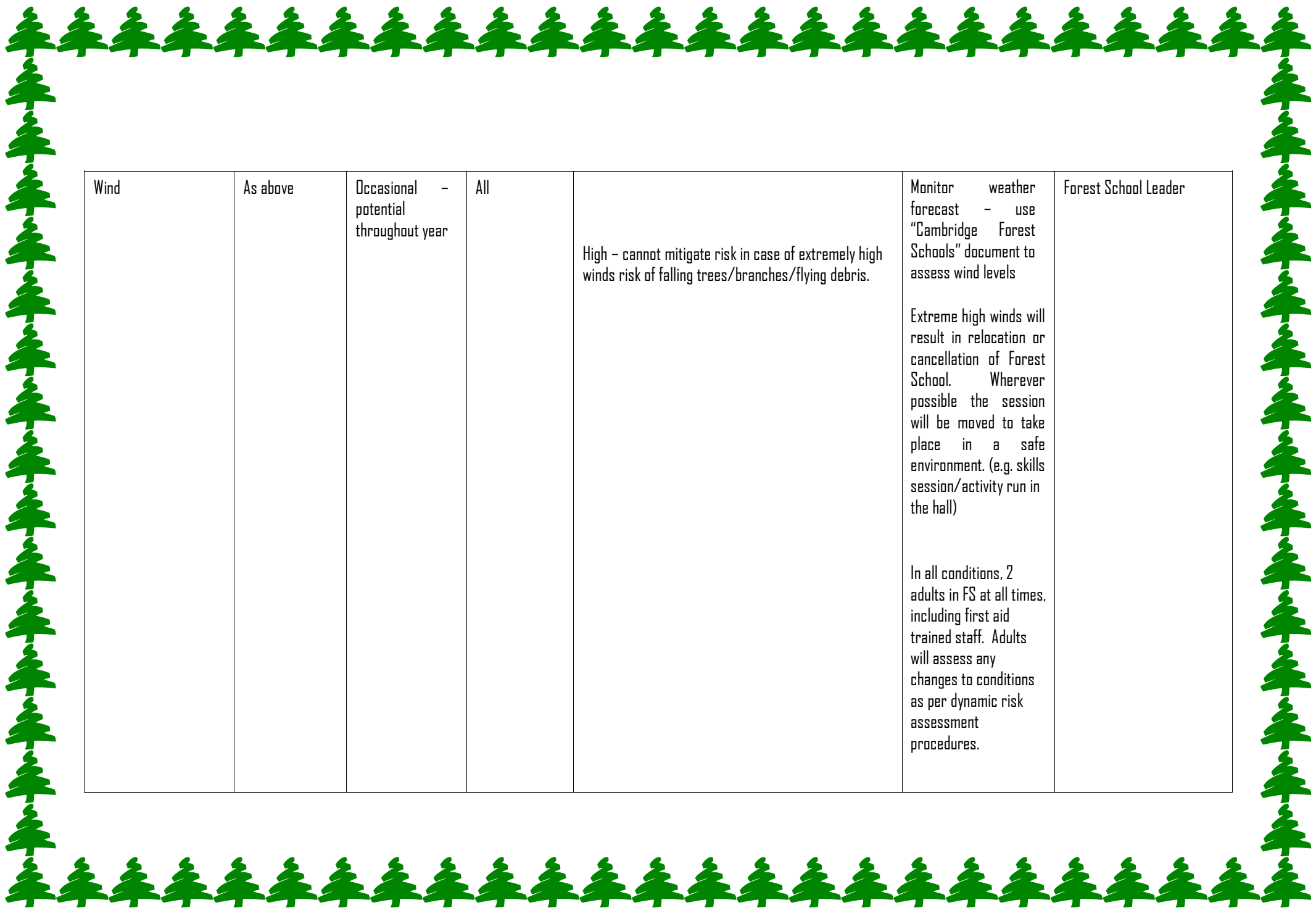
Cold	As above	Occasional/ seasonal	All	High (Low with measures in place) - Hypothermia/chilblains/frostbite	<p>-Safety discussion. - Ensure participants are dressed appropriately,</p> <p>-Space blankets in first aid kit, -Increase active elements &amp; limit time when not moving. -End activity if participants get too cold.</p>	<p>Forest School Leader/Staff to inform parents to provide suitable clothing.  (Spares to be available)</p> <p>Forest School Leader/Staff</p>
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Ice/Snow	As above	Occasional/ Seasonal	All	High (Low with measures) -Increased risk of slips & falls. -Hypothermia/chilblains/frostbite	-Safety discussion. - Ensure participants are dressed appropriately,  -Space blankets in first aid kit, -Increase active elements & limit time when not moving. - Adjust/end activity if too dangerous OR if participants get too cold.	
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Rain	As above	Occasional – throughout year	All	High – low with measures -Increased risk of slipping. -Risks of participants getting cold if get very wet,	-Safety discussion. - Ensure participants are dressed appropriately. -Space blankets available. -Create shelter if needed (tarpaulin).  -End activity if conditions render it too dangerous. (e.g. underfoot conditions hazardous)	
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Wind	As above	Occasional – potential throughout year	All	High – cannot mitigate risk in case of extremely high winds risk of falling trees/branches/flying debris.	Monitor weather forecast – use “Cambridge Forest Schools” document to assess wind levels  Extreme high winds will result in relocation or cancellation of Forest School. Wherever possible the session will be moved to take place in a safe environment. (e.g. skills session/activity run in the hall)  In all conditions, 2 adults in FS at all times, including first aid trained staff. Adults will assess any changes to conditions as per dynamic risk assessment procedures.	Forest School Leader
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**Specific Activities & Tools:**

Hazard:	Risk Benefit:	Frequency:	Who is at risk:	Severity of potential risk/injury:	How to manage:	Who is responsible:
Shelter & structure building	Physical & coordination development.	Medium	Users/ all in the area.	Medium – head injury	Supervision of shelter building by adult to ensure no significant risk from falling materials.	Forest School Leader/Staff
	Team working & communication.				Provide tarps/poles/fastenings which are appropriate for the age group involved.	Forest School Leader/Staff
	Life skills.  Exploring materials.				Remove structures at end of sessions – “leave as we find” policy.  2 adults in FS at all times, including first aid trained staff.	All

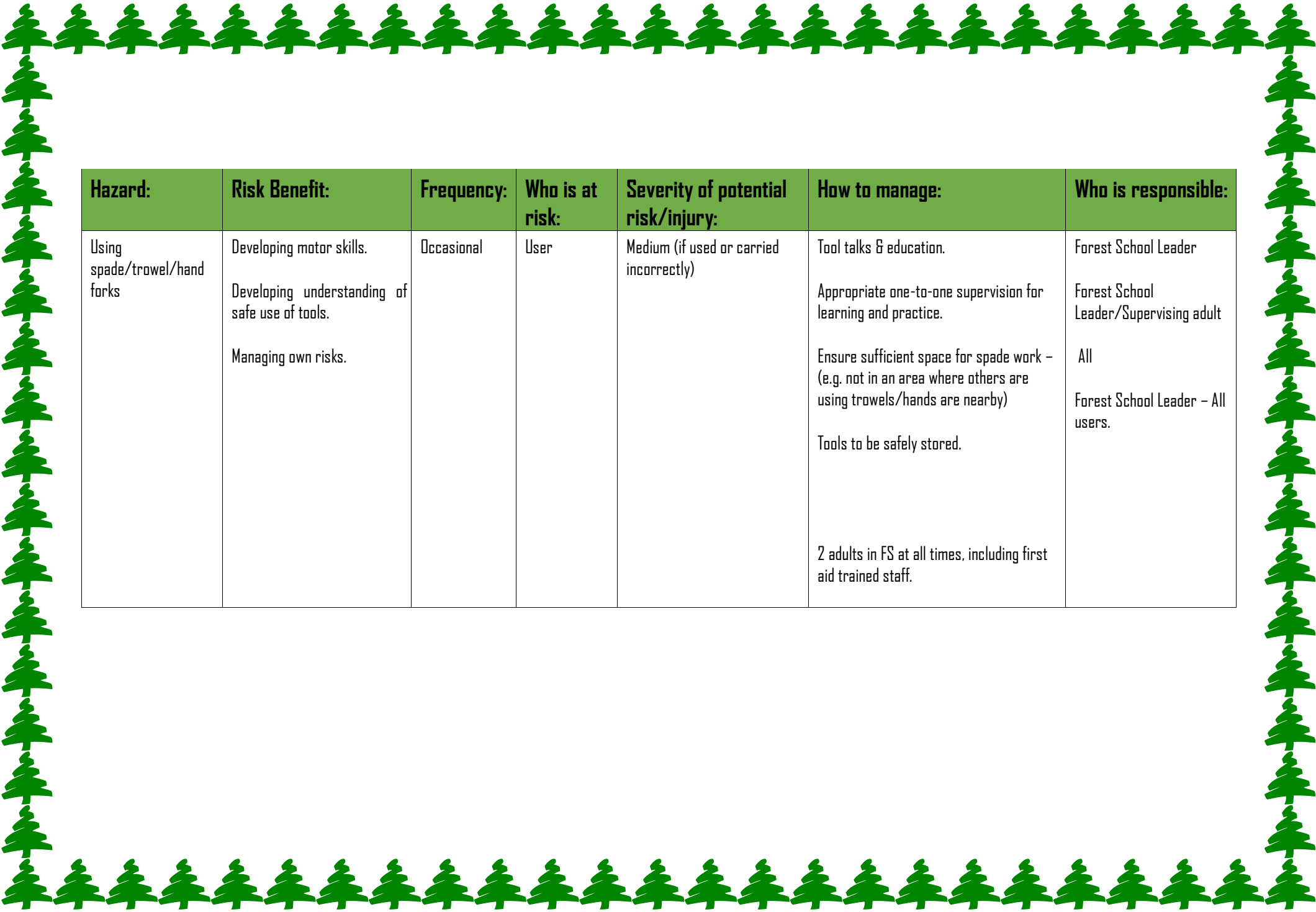
Hazard:	Risk Benefit:	Frequency:	Who is at risk:	Severity of potential risk/injury:	How to manage:	Who is responsible:
<b>Collecting natural materials/detailed exploration of woodland:</b>  Associated potential hazards from stings/bites/poisonous plants/animal faeces - see specific risk assessments.  Lifting materials  Lifting & swinging sticks	Physical & coordination development – lifting/ carrying/ negotiating terrain.  Exploring materials and natural environment.  Learning about flora & fauna  Exploring natural materials in free play and activities.	Medium	Users/ all in the area.	Variable depending on detail (see above for bites/stings/poisonous plants etc)          Lifting – risk of bumps/bruises/scratches.  <b>High</b> - Lifting & swinging sticks – risk to heads/eyes	Area will be swept for notable hazards before sessions.  Litter removed whenever identified.  Educate & inform - Discussion of how to safely gather materials. (Lifting safely)  Gloves available for use in areas of significant stinging/spiking potential.  Adult intervention if sticks not being carried/lifted safely. Support & educate to develop understanding.  Support team carrying of larger length items.  2 adults in FS at all times, including first aid trained staff.	Forest School Leader/Staff       Forest School Leader/Staff/All as appropriate      All



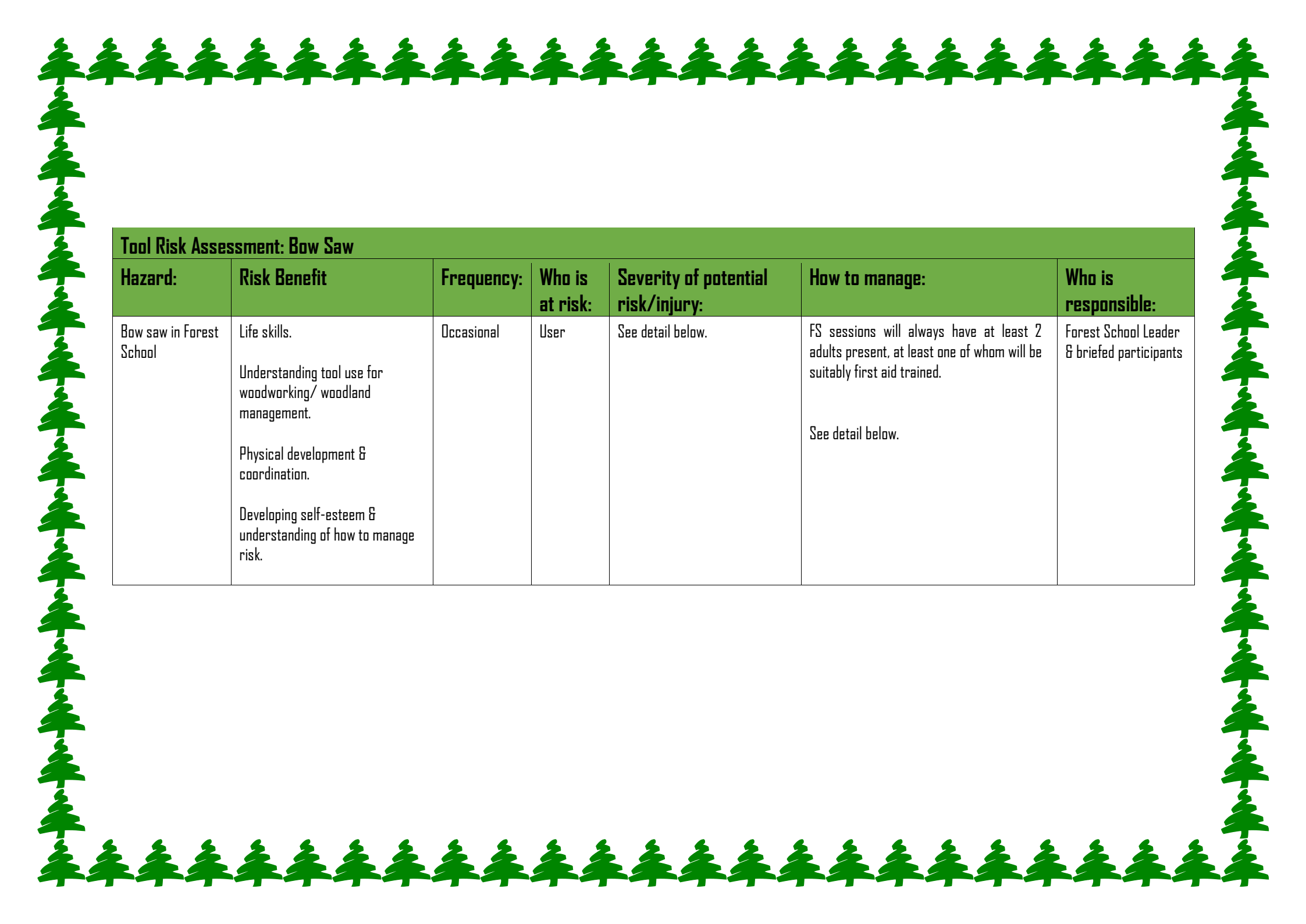
### Tool Risk Assessment: Sharp Hand Tools

Hazard:	Risk Benefit:	Frequency:	Who is at risk:	Severity of potential risk/injury:	How to manage:	Who is responsible:
Using sharp hand tools (incl palm drill)	Developing motor skills.  Developing understanding of safe use of tools.  Managing own risks.	Occasional	User	High	Tool talks & education.  Appropriate one-to-one supervision for learning and practice.  Gloves to be worn on appropriate hand.  Tools to be safely stored.    2 adults in FS at all times, including first aid trained staff.	Forest School Leader  Forest School Leader  All  Forest School Leader – All users.

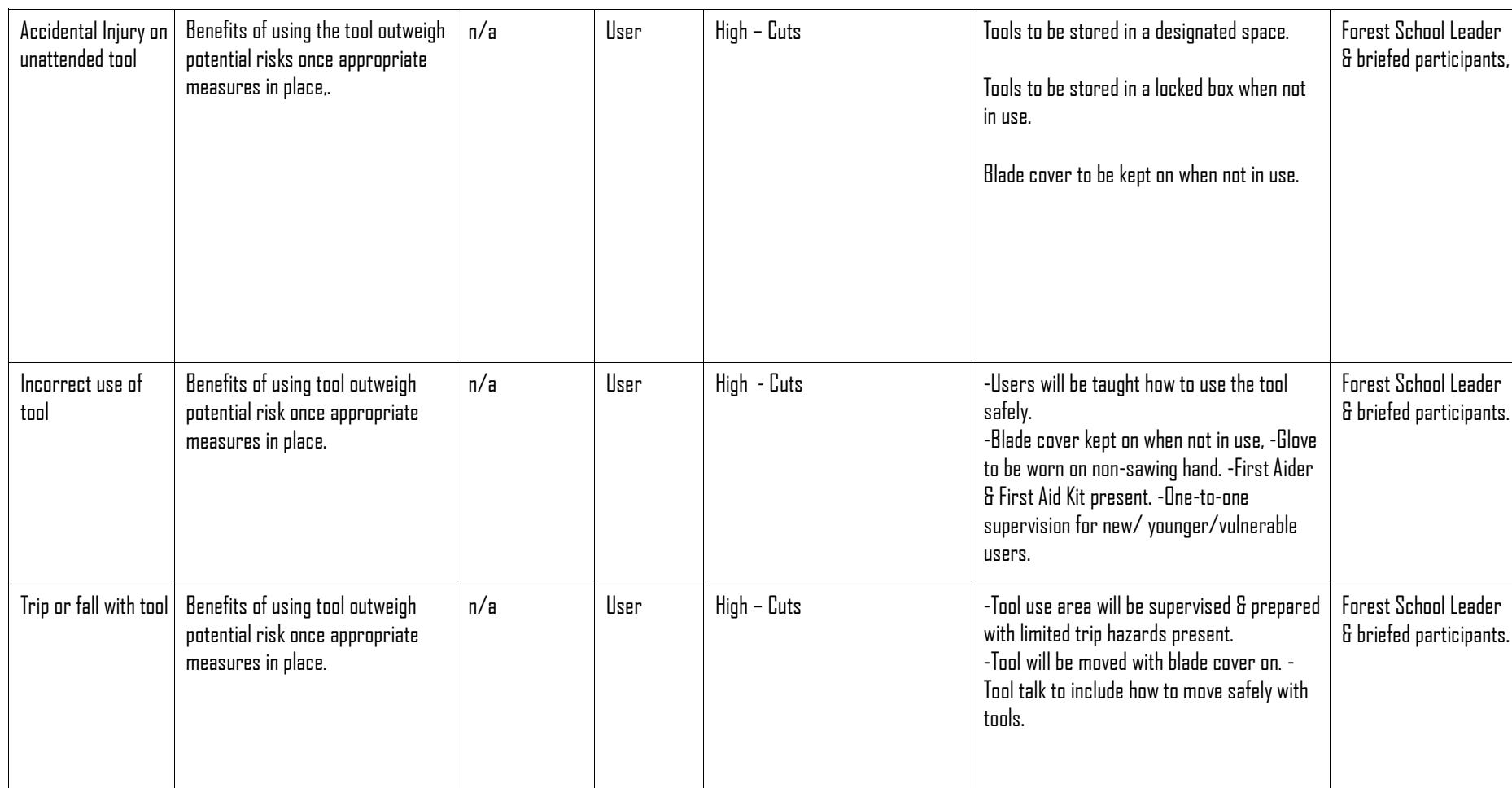
### Tool Risk Assessment: Gardening Tools



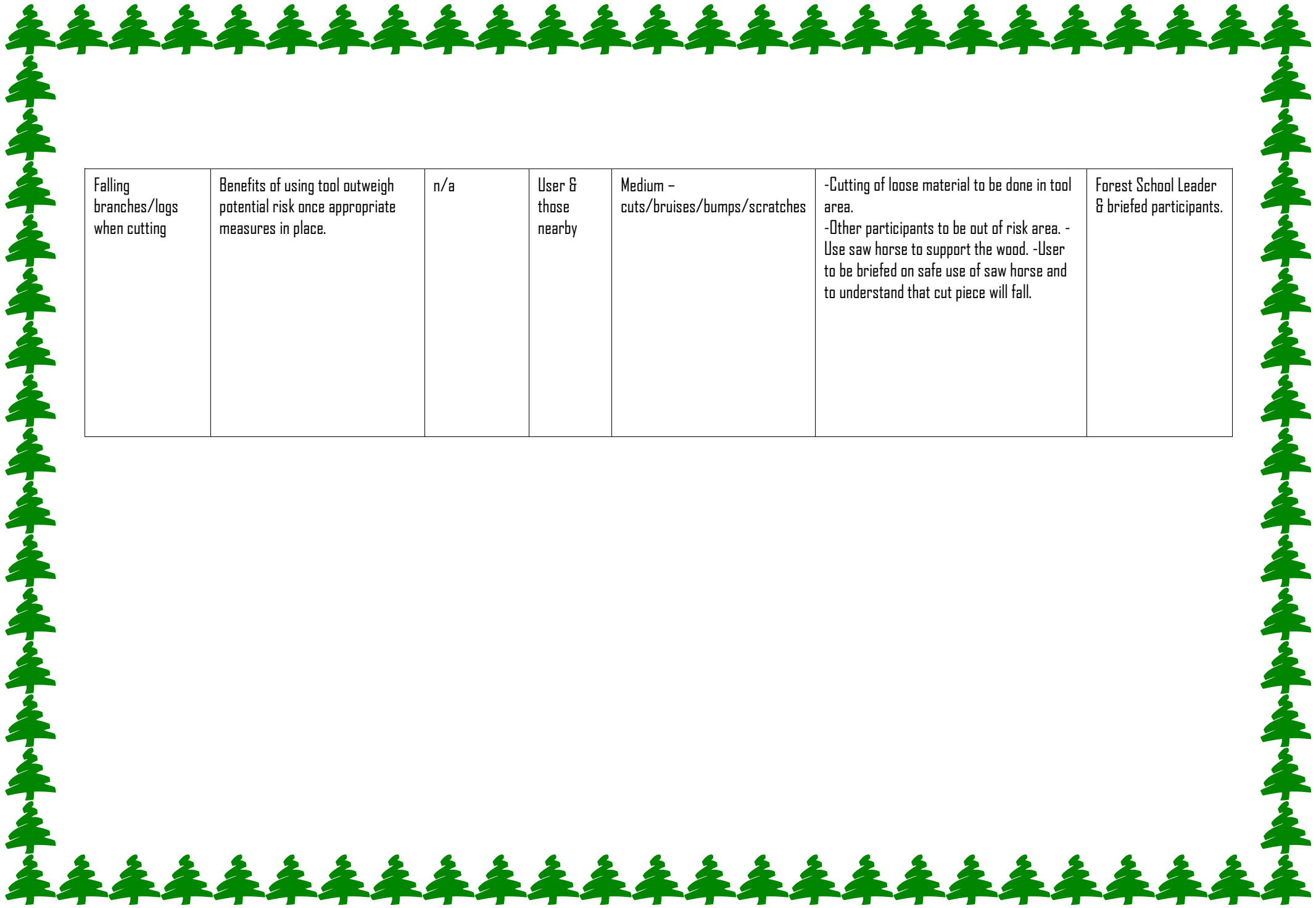
Hazard:	Risk Benefit:	Frequency:	Who is at risk:	Severity of potential risk/injury:	How to manage:	Who is responsible:
Using spade/trowel/hand forks	<p>Developing motor skills.</p> <p>Developing understanding of safe use of tools.</p> <p>Managing own risks.</p>	Occasional	User	Medium (if used or carried incorrectly)	<p>Tool talks &amp; education.</p> <p>Appropriate one-to-one supervision for learning and practice.</p> <p>Ensure sufficient space for spade work – (e.g. not in an area where others are using trowels/hands are nearby)</p> <p>Tools to be safely stored.</p> <p>2 adults in FS at all times, including first aid trained staff.</p>	<p>Forest School Leader</p> <p>Forest School Leader/Supervising adult</p> <p>All</p> <p>Forest School Leader – All users.</p>



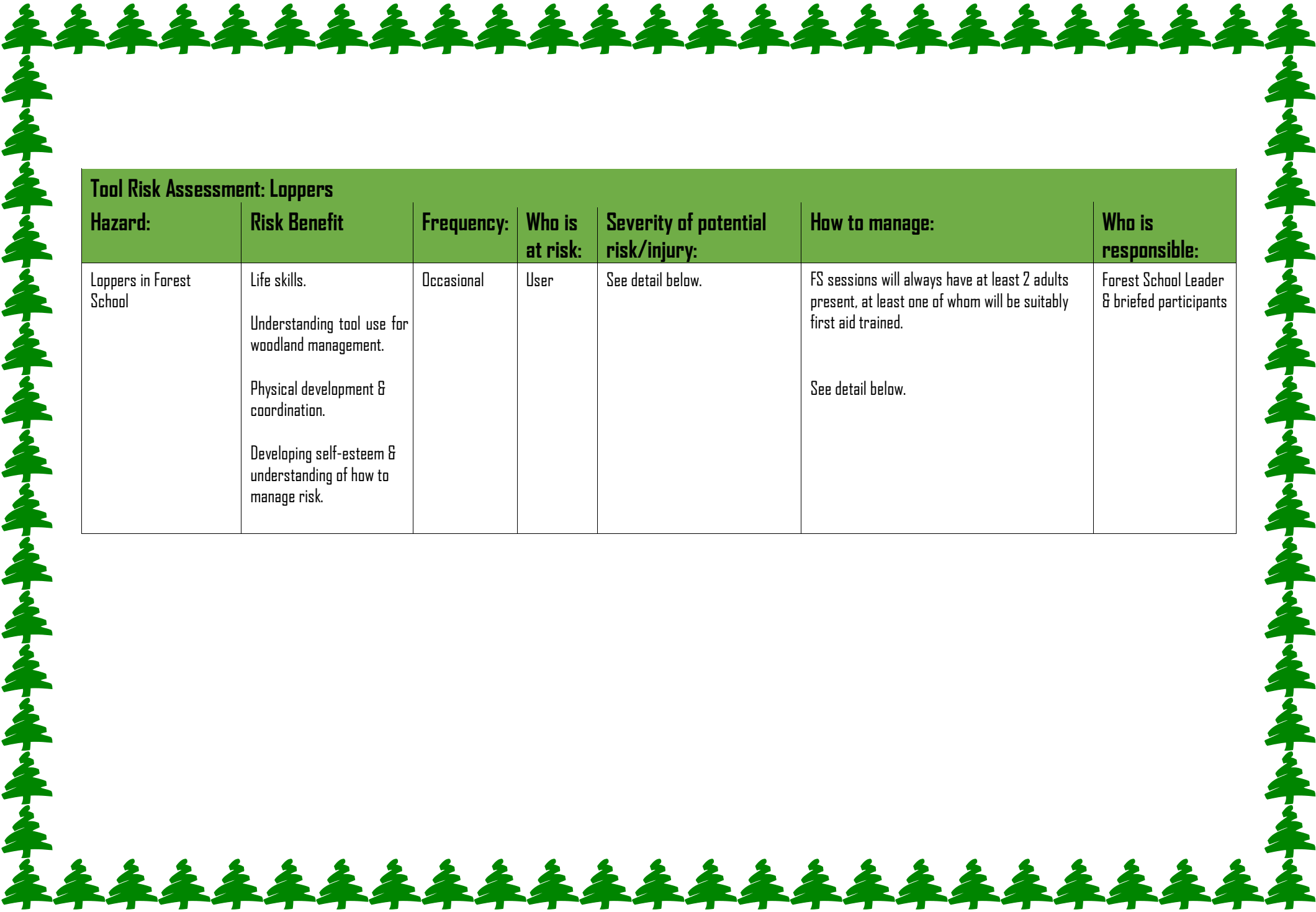
Tool Risk Assessment: Bow Saw						
Hazard:	Risk Benefit	Frequency:	Who is at risk:	Severity of potential risk/injury:	How to manage:	Who is responsible:
Bow saw in Forest School	<p>Life skills.</p> <p>Understanding tool use for woodworking/ woodland management.</p> <p>Physical development &amp; coordination.</p> <p>Developing self-esteem &amp; understanding of how to manage risk.</p>	Occasional	User	See detail below.	<p>FS sessions will always have at least 2 adults present, at least one of whom will be suitably first aid trained.</p> <p>See detail below.</p>	Forest School Leader & briefed participants



Accidental Injury on unattended tool	Benefits of using the tool outweigh potential risks once appropriate measures in place..	n/a	User	High – Cuts	<p>Tools to be stored in a designated space.</p> <p>Tools to be stored in a locked box when not in use.</p> <p>Blade cover to be kept on when not in use.</p>	Forest School Leader & briefed participants,
Incorrect use of tool	Benefits of using tool outweigh potential risk once appropriate measures in place.	n/a	User	High - Cuts	<p>-Users will be taught how to use the tool safely.</p> <p>-Blade cover kept on when not in use, -Glove to be worn on non-sawing hand. -First Aider &amp; First Aid Kit present. -One-to-one supervision for new/ younger/vulnerable users.</p>	Forest School Leader & briefed participants.
Trip or fall with tool	Benefits of using tool outweigh potential risk once appropriate measures in place.	n/a	User	High – Cuts	<p>-Tool use area will be supervised &amp; prepared with limited trip hazards present.</p> <p>-Tool will be moved with blade cover on. - Tool talk to include how to move safely with tools.</p>	Forest School Leader & briefed participants.

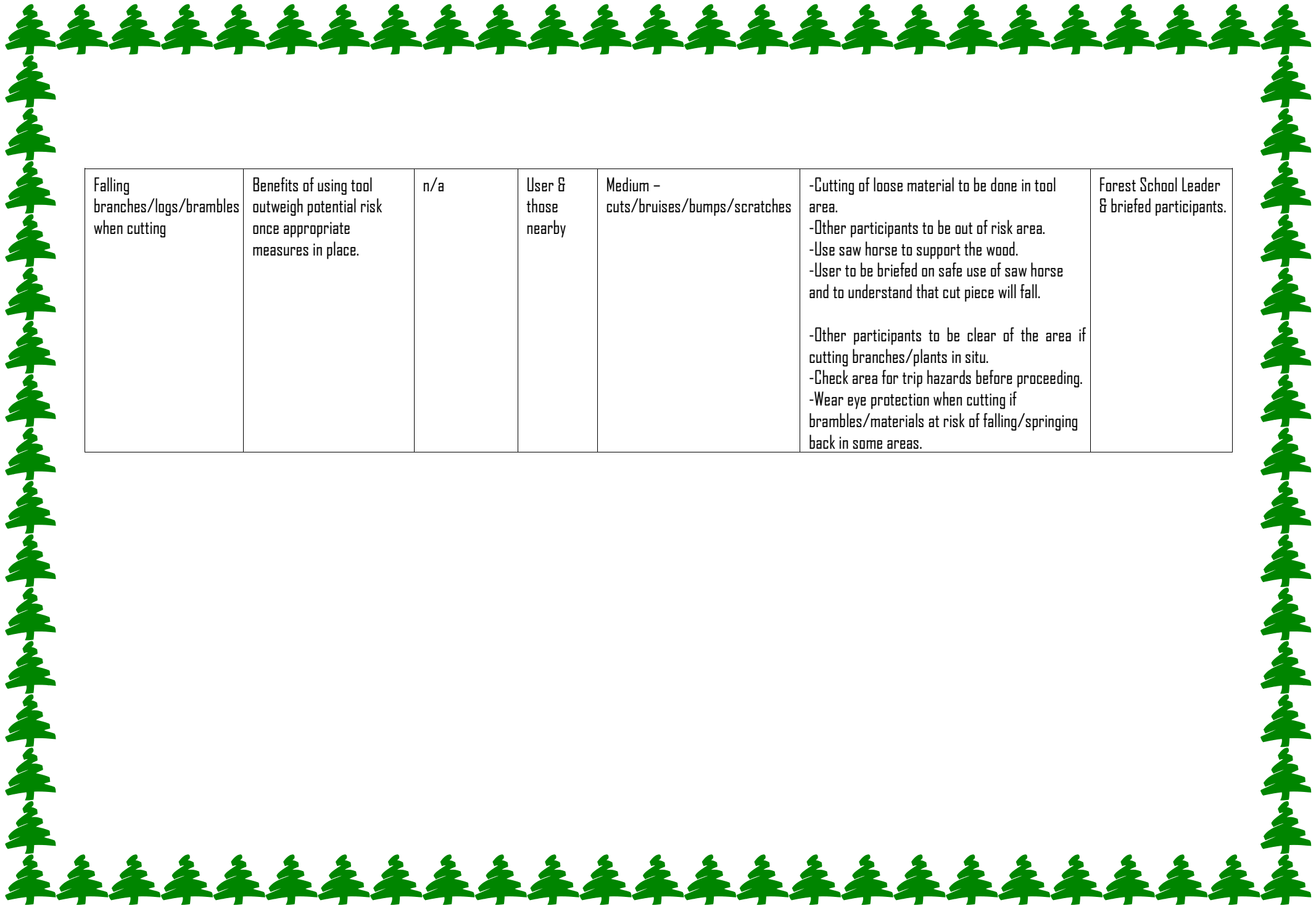


Falling branches/logs when cutting	Benefits of using tool outweigh potential risk once appropriate measures in place.	n/a	User & those nearby	Medium – cuts/bruises/bumps/scratches	-Cutting of loose material to be done in tool area. -Other participants to be out of risk area. - Use saw horse to support the wood. -User to be briefed on safe use of saw horse and to understand that cut piece will fall.	Forest School Leader & briefed participants.
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Tool Risk Assessment: Loppers						
Hazard:	Risk Benefit	Frequency:	Who is at risk:	Severity of potential risk/injury:	How to manage:	Who is responsible:
Loppers in Forest School	<p>Life skills.</p> <p>Understanding tool use for woodland management.</p> <p>Physical development &amp; coordination.</p> <p>Developing self-esteem &amp; understanding of how to manage risk.</p>	Occasional	User	See detail below.	<p>FS sessions will always have at least 2 adults present, at least one of whom will be suitably first aid trained.</p> <p>See detail below.</p>	Forest School Leader & briefed participants

Accidental Injury on unattended tool	Benefits of using the tool outweigh potential risks once appropriate measures in place..	n/a	User	High – Cuts	<p>Tools to be stored in a designated space.</p> <p>Tools to be stored in a locked box when not in use.</p> <p>MF to store secateurs on person (in holster/zipped pocket) if appropriate to activity.</p>	Forest School Leader & briefed participants,
Incorrect use of tool	Benefits of using tool outweigh potential risk once appropriate measures in place.	n/a	User	High - Cuts	<p>-Users will be taught how to use the tool safely.</p> <p>-Only for cutting up to maximum 2pence piece diameter (loppers), smaller size for secateurs.</p> <p>-First Aider &amp; First Aid Kit present.</p> <p>-One-to-one supervision for new/younger/vulnerable users.</p>	Forest School Leader & briefed participants.
Trip or fall with tool	Benefits of using tool outweigh potential risk once appropriate measures in place.	n/a	User	High – Cuts	<p>-Check area for trip hazards before using.</p> <p>-Tool talk to include how to move safely with tools.</p>	Forest School Leader & briefed participants.



Falling branches/logs/brambles when cutting	Benefits of using tool outweigh potential risk once appropriate measures in place.	n/a	User & those nearby	Medium – cuts/bruises/bumps/scratches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Cutting of loose material to be done in tool area.</li><li>-Other participants to be out of risk area.</li><li>-Use saw horse to support the wood.</li><li>-User to be briefed on safe use of saw horse and to understand that cut piece will fall.</li> <li>-Other participants to be clear of the area if cutting branches/plants in situ.</li><li>-Check area for trip hazards before proceeding.</li><li>-Wear eye protection when cutting if brambles/materials at risk of falling/springing back in some areas.</li></ul>	Forest School Leader & briefed participants.
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