

Dear Parents and Carers

We will be continuing to offer Forest School sessions to the pupils in the Acorns and Oaks classes from January. These sessions will take place every other Wednesday for the Acorns and once every term for the Oaks. The first session for the Acorns will be in the afternoon on Wednesday 17th April. Oaks this term May 23rd.

All sessions are led by Mrs Bridge who is a qualified Forest schools' instructor. She is supported by Miss Jackson (TA), and volunteers to ensure that the ratio of adults to children is sufficient. We are always looking for extra help so if you are interested in volunteering please contact the school office. All volunteers are required to have DBS check and are asked to provide a reference. They will also be asked to read our behaviour, safeguarding and code of conduct policies.

Forest School is all about developing the whole child, their confidence, self-esteem, and social skills, as well as improving their knowledge and understanding of the rich and varied natural environment. This links in very well with our science curriculum. Risk assessments are carried out for all the activities we will undertake.

On Forest school days, children **must** come to school dressed in their forest school gear with their wellies in a bag. Clean shoes must be worn in the classroom! Children may return to school after the session wet and muddy so a change of clothes (including spare socks and underwear) may be required if they are going home by car or taxi. Any spare clothes for changing into needs to go in a **NAMED CARRIER BAG**. **Your children need to be able to dress themselves so please teach them these skills.**

It is very important that the children are prepared for cold, warm or wet weather. If you know that your child suffers from the cold, please make sure that they wear extra layers of clothing. It is **essential** that even if it is warm that children wear **long sleeved tops and trousers/leggings** to prevent stings, scratches, grazes and ticks. We do have a limited number of waterproof leggings and wellies that children can borrow. Forest school is only ever cancelled in windy weather, snow and rain are simply a good challenge.

I have included a kit list with this letter.

Thank you for your support.

Mrs Bridge

Forest Schools' Kit List

What to Wear:

ESSENTIALS

Wellies/walking boots (must be able to tie their shoe laces, no sandals!)

Socks (2 pairs in very cold weather)

Jogging bottoms and/or leggings (please no jeans these are very cold when wet, legs must be covered - no shorts!)

Long sleeved t shirt (even in warm weather as it prevents nettle stings, scratches and ticks!)

Waterproof trousers, in wet weather or working in river/mud.

Change of clothes - including spare socks and pants, (yes pants are a good idea, despite waterproofs, water still seems to get this far sometimes!)

A plastic bag **with their name on** to put dry or wet and muddy clothes in.

Cold/Wet Weather

Warm jumper or fleece.

Warm coat and/or Waterproof Coat.

Warm hat and Gloves (please **name these** as they tend to get lost)

Warm Weather

Sunhat and suntan lotion

Prospective **Forest School Dates** this half term are:

Acorns:

Wednesday 17st April

Wednesday 1st May

Wednesday 15th May

Oaks:

Thursday 23rd May