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20th October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

We are very excited to let you know that Year Two will have the opportunity to start Forest School sessions after half term as they were halted in March due to lockdown. These sessions will be on Thursdays and Class 5 will be going first. Class 6 will be informed nearer the time of their start date.

What is Forest School?

Forest School is a fun, exciting way to learn in an outdoor setting such as a woodland. It is proven to improve children's confidence, self-esteem and communication skills, as well as giving them an opportunity to have lots of fun!

We intend to use the woodland areas within the school grounds for Forest School during a normal school day.

Children will experience outdoor learning in a flexible, self-led, adult-led way; ensuring that they learn and use their imagination through new experiences; becoming highly motivated, confident, enthusiastic learners and explorers.

Children will learn how to safely use different outdoor tools. These will be adult supervised and safety rules will be taught to the children.

What will my child need?

Forest Schools will happen in all weathers and in all seasons (unless it is VERY windy or icy!), so please make sure your child has suitable clothes for the weather.

Because the children may get dirty and wet during these sessions, they will be expected to wear:

- old trousers;
- sturdy shoes or wellington boots;
- long sleeve top
- waterproof coat;
- hat;
- gloves if appropriate
- Waterproof trousers if they have a pair.

A full COVID 19 risk assessment has been completed please note some of the key outcomes:

- *We are not permitted to lend any spare clothing so please send your child to school in their old clothes with their waterproof clothing otherwise they will not be able to take part in the sessions*

- *Children will have access to water on site for extra washing of hands, they will not be able to use hand gel during sessions as this just attracts more mud!*
- *Tools and equipment will be cleaned after every session*
- *No contact games will be planned and activities will be spread out allowing for social distancing*
- *Unfortunately the rope swing will be out of use*

If you have any concerns and would like to see the full risk assessment please let me know.

We also have a space for an adult volunteer at Forest school for Thursday mornings, if this is something you would like to help with please contact me.

Thank you

Sallie Smith
Forest School Lead