



Dear Parents and Carers

Year 4 - Forest School Spring Term 2017

The children in Year 4 will be having Forest School sessions regularly on **Wednesday afternoons**, starting Wednesday 11th January 2017 until Wednesday 5th April 2017.

Following on from last year's Forest School sessions, several parents have shown interest in what the premise for Forest School is, and how it links with the National Curriculum.

I thought I would outline the basic principles that govern the Forest School approach. The original Forest School theory came from Denmark, where part of the everyday running of the school involved time for the children to experience being outdoors in all types of weather, achieving small manageable and practical tasks, and developing a love of nature. It was also created as a way of allowing children to take risks, and learn how to manage these safely. It provided opportunities for independent and collaborative learning, as well as building self-esteem and self-worth.

The key aims for Forest School at Wisborough Green School are to provide children with the opportunity to

- manage risks independently
- collaborate and be independent within tasks
- develop skills related to outdoor learning
- encourage a sense of wellbeing, self-confidence and self-worth
- appreciate nature

Forest School is a very child-centred approach, and allows the children to make their own decisions about the tasks they complete. It is also holistic by nature, focussing on the development of the whole child, their personal, social and emotional needs, as well as their skills and academic ability.

Forest School sessions will run from 12.30pm, in order to allow any children who wish to, to have a communal lunch around the campfire. This will happen every week, so children who wish to bring in sandwiches to toast over the fire, are very welcome to do so. If your child has school lunches, they will be allowed to join the first or second sitting of lunchtimes, in order to still join in with the rest of the class at 12.30pm.

Headteacher: Mrs A Harrison B.Ed (Hons) NPQH

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January 2017



This year, part of the science curriculum will be taught in the outdoor environment, linking in with Forest Schools sessions. There will be a certain degree of flexibility as to when science will be purely inside, outside, or a combination of both locations, so it is imperative that your child has the correct Forest School clothing **every week** without fail.

Essential Forest School clothing:

Long Trousers – **Shorts will not be acceptable,**

Sturdy footwear - Everyday school shoes/P.E. shoes will not be suitable. Wellies or walking boots will be fine.

Other required clothing (weather dependent)

Woolly hat/sunhat

Gloves (Seasonal)

Jacket/waterproof coat

Fleece/sweatshirt

Spare socks

Please be aware that if your child does not have the correct clothing, they may not be allowed to participate in the sessions.

If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know.

Yours sincerely

Mr Harder
Teacher

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