

Forest Schools

Every MONDAY Reception class will be accessing the curriculum through forest schools

~Forest School is an inspirational process that offers children, young people and adult's regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands on learning experiences in a local woodland environment ~ - Forest Education Initiative (FEI)

Based on a Scandinavian idea of embracing the outdoors as a learning environment, Forest School involves children working on a regular basis throughout the year (ideally once a week) in a local woodland setting or on a designated Forest School site.

Children will follow their usual curriculum, but in an outdoor context, using learning and teaching strategies which raise self-esteem and develop confidence, independence, language and communication skills. The Forest School Leader works with the school/setting staff to carry themes looked at in the classroom into the woodland. The Forest School sessions are not an 'addition' but are part of the children's learning experiences, part of their school week. Sessions take place throughout the year, all seasons, all weathers unless it is dangerous for the session to take place (high winds / lightning).

In order for each child to fully engage and enjoy the sessions it is vital that they are appropriately dressed. The following kit will need to be provided, please ensure that each item is clearly named:

<u>Warm or Hot weather gear:</u> Wellies Sun Hat Long sleeved cool cotton top Long trousers or leggings (NO shorts or summer dresses to avoid nettle stings and scratches from brambles)	<u>Cloudy or wet weather gear:</u> Wellies Full body waterproofs with hood or waterproof coat and trousers.	<u>Cold weather gear:</u> Wellies Full body waterproofs with hood or waterproof coat and trousers. Hat, gloves, scarf, thermal underwear, warm jumpers, extra pair of socks (Lots of layers as it can be very cold)
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This half term Reception class will begin their forest school sessions on **Monday 14th September**, we will be going to our Forest school site in our school grounds. Please ensure that your child is appropriately dressed as it will have a huge bearing on their level of enjoyment of the session.

Your child will need to come to school dressed in their old clothes and waterproofs but with their school shoes on. You will need to carry their wellies in and place them on the wellie rack outside our reception class. Please do not send your child in wearing their wellies as it will hold up the queue coming in. You will need to bring their school uniform in a bag which the children will put on their peg. Please come and see me if you have any questions

Thank you

Mrs Caine

