



September 2021

Re: Forest Schools

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to be able to tell you that the school is able to, once again, run allotment and forest school sessions this academic year. The allotment has thrived over recent months and we are very grateful to Nicky Herbert for all her hard work. In the Forest School area, the trees and foliage surrounding the base camp are continuing to mature and provide an ideal location for us to explore, have fun and learn.

Over recent years, the allotment has become an integral part of the school. Caring for a school garden/allotment has shown to improve a child's social skills and behaviour. The process of planning and tending a crop will help children develop skills, such as respect and patience. Gardening also encourages teamwork skills as they take part in group work activities and are encouraged to take responsibility, by caring for their own crops.

Forest School is an inspirational concept, providing learning opportunities through practical activities in an outdoor environment. Children enjoy the freedom to explore and experience the natural world in all seasons and in all weathers (except thunder and lightning or very high winds). It embraces an approach of nurturing, supporting and developing the self-esteem of participants and hosts the ideal environment in which to further develop our children's problem solving, risk taking, creativity and teamwork skills. The school is very fortunate to have two members of staff who are fully qualified to run outdoor learning sessions – Miss Sykes and Mrs Cook.

This year, allotment sessions will continue to be run by Nicky Herbert and Forest School sessions will be primarily led by Mrs Cook with Miss Sykes on occasions. We will continue to send weekly reminders to classes about their allotment sessions.

Set out below is the timetable to show when Forest Schools and allotment are due to take place over the year. Before each term, a consent form will be sent out to parents for Forest Schools. These must be completed and returned before the start of each group of sessions.





Infant Forest School Sessions with Mrs Cook. Sessions will take place on TUESDAYS.

Term	Class	Dates of sessions
Autumn 1	Sparrow	14/9/2021 – 12/10/2021
Autumn 2	Nightingale	2/11/2021 – 30/11/2021
Spring 1	Site to be rested	
Spring 2	Kingfisher	1/3/2021 – 29/3/2021
Summer 1	Robin	26/4/2022 – 24/5/2022
Summer 2	Wren	7/6/2022 – 5/7/2022

Junior Forest School Sessions with Mrs Cook. Sessions will take place on MONDAYS.

Term	Class	Dates of sessions
Autumn 1	Woodpecker	13/9/2021 – 11/10/2021
Autumn 2	Skylark	1/11/2021 – 29/11/2021
Spring 1	Site to be rested	
Spring 2	Jay	28/2/2022 – 28/3/2022
Summer 1	Swift	25/4/2022 – 23/5/2022
Summer 2	Year 5s from Peregrine and Heron	6/6/2022 – 4/7/2022
	Year 6s	The Year 6 pupils will take part in NOLA (National Outdoor Learning Award). Further information about this, including the day it will happen will be sent out nearer the time.





Allotment Sessions – WEDNESDAY afternoons.

Please ensure that your child has a pair of wellies, old trousers and a waterproof coat in school on the day of their allotment session.

Autumn		Spring		Summer	
Wednesday	Class	Wednesday	Class	Wednesday	Class
8 th September	Skylark	Allotment to be rested.		27 th April	Nightingale
15 th September	Heron			4 th May	Jay
22 nd September	Nightingale			11 th May	Skylark
29 th September	Jay			18 th May	Kingfisher
6 th October	Peregrine			25 th May	Wren
13 th October	Kingfisher			Half term	
20 th October	Swift	Half term		8 th June	Robin
Half term Allotment to be rested.		2 nd March	Sparrow	15 th June	Swift
		9 th March	Woodpecker	22 nd June	Sparrow
		16 th March	Robin	29 th June	Woodpecker
		23 rd March	Wren	6 th July	Skylark
		30 th March	Peregrine	13 th July	Nightingale
		6 th April	Heron		

The safety and welfare of the pupils participating in Forest School and allotment sessions is paramount and therefore all tasks are age-appropriate and risk assessments have been carried out for all activities. The clothing that the children wear is also extremely important. Forest Schools will take place in all weathers, other than high winds and/or thunder and lightning. A safety sweep is done before every session so that we can ensure that the site is safe even if it is wet. To ensure that all children are able to access the sessions fully, please ensure that your child(ren) have the required clothes in school for every session (see below). The school will provide waterproof coats and trousers for all children to wear when it is necessary. If the correct clothes are not in school your child(ren) will spend the afternoon in the school building completing work left by their class teacher.

If you have any issues with getting the clothing your child requires, please do not hesitate to come into school to see me about it.





Essential Equipment: Clothing

Please ensure that your child has the following items of clothing for the particular times of the year for their Forest School sessions. As previously mentioned, children will not be able to take part in the sessions if they do not have the appropriate clothing to protect them from the weather and from cuts, scrapes and stings. Adults and children must wear long sleeves tops and trousers at all times. Layering clothing is the best way to keep warm and adjust to suit their temperature. We do provide children with waterproof clothing to put over their clothes but please do be aware that your child may still come home with mud on their clothes.

Cold Weather	Hot Weather
Woolly Hat	Sun Hat
Scarf	Sun cream
Gloves	Gloves
Coat/Jacket	Coat/Jacket
Fleece/warm jumper	Sweatshirt/long sleeve top
Long trousers	Long trousers
Thick socks	Thin socks
Walking boots/Wellingtons	Walking boots/Wellingtons
A bag with spare clothes in.	A bag with spare clothes in.
A spare carrier bag for wet/muddy clothes and shoes.	A spare carrier bag for wet/muddy clothes and shoes.

Finally, in order for your child to take part in Forest Schools, the school must have a completed medical form for your child. The school holds a medical form for your child(ren) but if there have been any changes to your child(ren)'s medical needs this year, please do contact the school office so that medical forms can be updated.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, or the office if you have any questions.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs C Tilling
Headteacher

