

## Forest School at

### What next?

If you wish to ask any questions or want any further information please do not hesitate to contact the school and Kay Tarran (Forest School Lead).

### When will your child be taking part?

All classes will take part for a series of sessions across the school year and specific dates for your child's class are below.

Your child must bring Forest School clothing and footwear **on the following dates:**

**TBC for all classes as necessary.**

Your child will need:

- a change of **old** clothes (trousers and a sweatshirt);
- a raincoat;
- a pair of waterproof trousers (optional but very helpful);
- a pair of wellington boots.



### Our mission statement:

Forest School is an outdoor, free and stimulating learning experience. It allows all children to test themselves; build self-esteem and pride; develop new skills and learn the art of reflection.



### What is it?

Forest Schools was originally developed from the Scandinavian education system and is about children building self-esteem and independence through exploring and experiencing the natural world.

Forest Schools is a long term programme delivered by trained practitioners within a natural environment (not necessarily a Forest!). Each Forest School programme is tailored to meet the needs of individuals within that group and is continuously developed as the children grow in confidence, skills and understanding.

The ethos of Forest Schools allows learners the time and space to develop skills, interests and understanding through practical, hands-on experiences.

### Where?

Forest School will take place either on school grounds or at Paddock Mound, Ketley. Meadows have been given a space here (known as The Glade) where much of the session will happen. The children will be closely supervised to ensure their safety, to observe and encourage their personal development and to support their learning.

### What will the children do?

Activities range from team building activities and those that build self-esteem, to looking at the science of the wood, its history and future. The children will also have both Literacy, Numeracy and other curriculum areas (such as science, history, art, design and technology and geography) covered in Forest School sessions.

### What does your child need?

Come rain or shine we will endeavour to use the wooded environment for sessions. Therefore it is essential that on the days that your child will be having Forest School sessions they bring with them a change of **old** clothes (be warned that they may get muddy!) wellington boots and a waterproof coat. In addition to this it will be helpful for your child to have pair of waterproof trousers or an all in one suit to ensure that their focus is on enjoying themselves!

### What does my child gain from the experience?

Forest Schools supports the holistic development of the child:

- Health and fitness - Being active in an outdoor, natural environment.
  - Increased emotional wellbeing
- Social development - Communicating, and negotiating with peers and adults to solve problems and share experiences.
- Skills development - Developing fine and gross motor skills and coordination for real purposes.
- Gaining knowledge and understanding - Multi-sensory, real-life learning.
  - Individualised learning - Careful observation allows adults to tailor support to children's own interests and stage of development.
- Curriculum Links - Forest Schools supports many areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage framework, National Curriculum and the Every Child Matters agenda.

Child Name\_\_\_\_\_ Class\_\_\_\_\_

Please sign and return the form below (please delete as appropriate):

I give consent my child's photograph, name and/or reasonable pertinent personal information to be used on appropriate occasion during Forest School sessions in any school material.\_\_\_\_\_Yes/ No

I give consent for my child's photograph, on occasion, to appear on the school website. (We always ensure that any photos selected reflect the sessions at Forest School and only first names will be used for any work of photos displayed.)\_\_\_\_\_Yes/ No

I give consent to medical or such surgical treatment deemed necessary by a qualified medical practitioner or to first aid being administered in the case of my son/daughter if an emergency should occur at a time when my consent to the treatment cannot otherwise be reasonably obtained.\_\_\_\_\_Yes/No

Any medical conditions Yes/No (if Yes please give details)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signed\_\_\_\_\_

Print\_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to child\_\_\_\_\_

I would be willing to offer my help during a Forest School session and I have a valid DBS check.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to parent\_\_\_\_\_