



Dear Parents,

We will be starting forest school sessions after Easter. For Forest School we use the woodland area at the bottom of our field, so the children do not leave the school site. Children will go to the forest with their class for one session a week, in Early Years this year this will be on either a Tuesday or a Thursday afternoon. For the first half term The **Caterpillars** will go on a **Tuesday** and the **Ladybirds** on a **Thursday**.

During forest school sessions children will have opportunities to learn about the world around them; exploring and engaging with nature. They will learn new skills and have the opportunity to take a managed risk, such as climbing trees, cooking on campfires and using tools. To enable the children to experience such rich opportunities we have a higher than usual ratio of adults to support our forest school sessions. We often rely on the kind support that we receive from parents to help our sessions run smoothly. Though we cannot currently have parent helpers in, we are hopeful that this might change in the future. If you would like to help during forest sessions please let your child's class teacher know so that we can ensure a DBS check is completed as soon as possible. Regular help is particularly valuable, but we also welcome helpers on a more ad-hoc basis.

Forest school clothing!

On the day your child is attending forest school we would like them to **come to school dressed appropriately for the visit**. They must have long trousers and sleeves which should be suitable for the season, for example thicker in the winter and more lightweight in warmer weather. There are nettles and brambles in our woodland area nearby to the paths, so long sleeves/trousers applies all year round. We have also found this protects children from insect bites. Layers are very helpful because your child will still be spending half of the day in the classroom. School uniform is not required on this day. Please ensure your child is wearing suitable footwear, such as velcro trainers, that they can put on and take off themselves. When we have wet weather the children will wear their waterproofs over the top of their forest school clothes. Please make sure that the clothes your child comes to school in can get mucky, and that they are named. In very cold weather please ensure that your child has a hat, gloves and scarf. It can get very cold in the woods and we do go whatever the weather.

Many thanks,

Mrs R Halbauer

Foundation Stage Leader