



20th October 2017

Dear Year 5 Parents

We are continuing to roll out our Forest School activities and are offering Year 5 the opportunity to access our 'Forest School Programme' which takes place in the school grounds and off site on a private piece of woodland based near the school. We would very much like to include your son/daughter in this exciting initiative. The programme will cover one session a week for 6 weeks.

The programme will be run by me and at least one other adult who will help with supervision and support of the children. The programme will commence at 2:30pm during the school day and will finish at 5:00pm. To help cover the extended day, we will be asking for a voluntary £4 per day payment-£24 for the 6 week placement. We will be providing all the equipment needed for the 6 sessions and invoices will be issued through School Money once replies have been returned.

This amazing learning experience will enrich your child's ability to learn from nature. All research shows that this special type of learning develops children's ability to problem solve and greatly increases their confidence and resilience.

Forest School provides curriculum based learning in an outdoor setting and is truly a classroom without walls. The programme provides an arena where children can feel comfortable and are able to flourish, enhancing their sense of well-being, increasing their self-confidence and self-awareness.

Forest School sessions are held in all weathers, except high winds and electrical storms. Children will need to be dressed appropriately with several layers of warm clothing and will need to wear sensible boots. Children who do not have enough clothing will become extremely cold and uncomfortable quickly. Therefore we would ask that your child also brings a spare set of clothes each week.

As you can see from the consent form it is essential that you are willing for the permission of photographs to be taken as they will help promote the benefits of the project and help with future initiatives. It is vital that we have your consent if your son/daughter is to take part.

We will be running this next Forest School group each Tuesday starting on the 7th November 2017 from 2.30pm-5:00pm; the last session will be on Tuesday 31st October 2017. If you would like your child to be a part of this exciting opportunity please fill in the forms provided and return them to me or the office by Wednesday 13th September 2017. If you have any questions please come and see me as soon as possible.

Kind Regards,

Mr R Roy



PLEASE RETURN BY Wednesday 1st November 2017

I give permission for my child to take part in the Forest School Programme sessions, and understand that we will be taking all sessions in a woodland setting.

Name of child:..... Class:.....

Name and telephone number of parent/guardian:.....

Name and another Emergency contact number:.....

Signed:..... Name:.....

Does your child have any condition that requires medical treatment, including medication?

Yes/No If yes please give brief details

.....

Does your child have any allergies?

Yes/No If yes please give brief details and any particular circumstances which may make your child's condition worse. For example nuts, high pollen, bee stings etc

.....

Please outline any dietary requirements your child has.....

I agree to my child receiving medication as instructed and to any emergency medical or surgical treatment, as considered necessary by any medical authorities present.

Signature..... Name in capitals.....

I agree to my child's photograph being taken and used on Birstwith School's website in line with the schools policy.

Signature..... Name in capitals.....



What is Forest School?

Forest School is originally a European concept which has been adopted throughout Denmark and Scandinavia as a way of teaching about the natural world in a practical outdoor way.

The philosophy of Forest Schools is to enhance opportunities for children to learn and play holistically using natural materials within the outdoor environment.

The Forest School Programme will be held on a private piece of woodland owned by Kerry foods. We have been very fortunate to be given permission to use the land and will be teaching the children about ecological impacts and sustainability on and around the site.

The aim of the programme is to support learning and development through all areas of the curriculum by developing skills that will improve well-being and involvement. Throughout the six week programme your child will be involved in the process of identifying and taking risks within a controlled environment. These may include the use of tools such as palm drills, sheath knives, billhooks and loppers as well as fire safety around a fire circle and fire safety when using a Kelly Kettle.

Other activities will vary according to the weather and may include shelter building, bug hunts, tree and plant identification or using small bow saws to cut tree cookies or firewood.

What shall I wear to Forest School?

- You will need a warm coat as you will be outside all day



- You will need a long sleeved top and a jumper to keep you warm





- You will need to wear long trousers to protect you from nettles and brambles



- You will need to wear sensible shoes such as walking boots or wellington boots with thick warm socks



- You will need to wear a hat, scarf and gloves



We are trying to purchase a set of waterproofs for the group and we will let the children know when they arrive; in the meantime though, Forest School will happen in all weathers and it is essential that your child is dressed appropriately if they are to take part. It may be a good idea for your child to have some of these extra items in a small string bag they can carry so they do not get misplaced!

Please ensure that you name everything and remember it is better to have too many clothes than not enough !!

I look forward to our forest school adventure,

Mr Roy