11th September 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Forest School F2A and F2D**

Throughout the year our Foundation 2 children will experience a series of exciting outdoor learning sessions called ‘Forest School’. Forest School sessions will take place in ‘Dragon Wood’, the woodland area at our Claremount Road site. The children will walk to the site where they will participate in a variety of activities aimed at promoting confidence and self esteem, developing social relationships and learning how to care for the natural environment. Some of the activities will involve the children learning new skills and taking ‘safe’ risks, challenging themselves and persevering – the aim of Forest School is to have fun, explore and enjoy being in a different environment. Risk assessments will be carried out for each session and children will be closely supervised at all times.

The types of activities that children might do at Forest School include: environmental art, shelter building, bushcraft skills (whittling, tying knots, etc.), story telling, playing games, plant identification and, eventually, outdoor cooking during a session around the camp fire! The children will be given a snack and a drink (hot chocolate on cold days) as part of the session.

When a child is at Forest School he/she may be subjected to various weather conditions as the only weather condition that will stop the session from going ahead will be strong winds. Parents are asked to supply their child with warm, sensible clothes for Forest School – lots of layers are best. This will keep your child comfortable, protect them from the woodland environment and will allow them to get the most out of the experience. St George’s Primary School will provide waterproof trousers and a jacket for each child, will be kept in school.

**Forest School Kit List:**

* Layers for the top of the body: **Long sleeved** T-shirt, fleece/ jumper and waterproof coat
* Long trousers
* Hats, gloves, scarf in cold weather or sun hat in sunny weather
* Thick socks and either waterproof walking boots or Wellington Boots.

Those children attending Forest School in the morning should come into school wearing their Forest School kit and bring their uniform to change into. Those attending Forest School in the afternoon should come to school in their uniform and bring their outdoor kit to change into. If you have any problems providing any items on the kit list then please see your child’s class teacher.

Children will have three blocks of four week sessions at Dragon Wood, a block in each term. F2B and F2D will be the first classes to experience Forest School and will begin with a class based introduction, slide show and safety talk next week.

**F2A will attend the morning session and will need to come into school dressed in appropriate clothing, with their uniform in a bag.**

**F2D will attend the afternoon session and will need to come into school in school uniform and bring Forest School clothes to change into.**

**Forest School Dates**

**Block 1**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 12/11/18 | Session 1  |
| 19/11/18 | Session 2 |
| 26/11/18 | Session 3 |
| 3/12/18 | Session 4 |

**Block 2**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 4/03/19 | Session 5 |
| 11/03/19 | Session 6 |
| 18/03/19 | Session 7 |
| 25/03/19 | Session 8 |

**Block 3**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 3/06/19 | Session 9 |
| 10/06/19 | Session 10 |
| 17/06/19 | Session11 |
| 24/06/19 | Session 12 |

**In order to have the correct ratio of adults to children, each class will need a minimum of 6 volunteers**. Adults will be asked to commit to attending the four week block where possible (am or pm for their child’s class), or even better for the set of three blocks that will happen during the year. There will be a training session for all volunteers on Monday 17th September 9am-10am, if you would like to volunteer during another block of sessions you may still attend the training session. **Due to pupil / adult ratio requirements we may be unable to run sessions if we do not have enough adult support – we are therefore asking all parents /grandparents / aunts and uncles to please support us with this exciting learning opportunity for your children.**

Please indicate if you would like to volunteer to accompany your child’s class to Forest School (and are able to attend all initial sessions including the training session).

Thank you for your support - we look forward to beginning this exciting adventure with you and the children!

Yours sincerely

Mrs Noakes

Forest School Leader

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Parent volunteers

I am able to attend Forest School sessions with my child’s class as a volunteer and will attend the training on 17th September.

Childs name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Class\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Carer name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Contact telephone number\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_