Forest School Sessions at Blossomfield Infant and Nursery School

Forest School sessions are offered to all of our Year 1 children on either a Thursday morning or Thursday afternoon. Sometimes, the children will go in the morning and sometimes the afternoon. We will inform all parents, in advance, of the dates their children's class will be going to their Forest School sessions.

If you would like to help out at a Forest school session, please inform your child's class teacher in Year One or Mrs Webb.

A letter requesting parental help will be sent out at the beginning of each half term (in the Year One Newsletter), detailing when each class is due to go out for that half term and when parental help is needed. Dates will be given out in full, for that whole half term. Without vital parental support at forest school, we would not be able to continue to offer these valuable sessions. PLEASE TRY AND SIGN UP TO HELP US, AS MUCH AS YOU CAN, THANKYOU!

We will be leaving the school site to walk to the local woods at either *Palmers Rough Woods* situated between Ralph Road and Cornbury Road, Shirley or *Shirley Heath Woods* across the road from our school. We will not be leaving our school site until November, as the children will be learning all about forest school on our school field at first and learning the forest school's important rules, the safe boundaries and expected behaviour and learning styles of forest school. Both sites we walk to are managed by Solihull MBC under their Woodland Management Programme.

Palmers Rough is our furthest destination which we only walk to when the children are fully ready to walk to this destination. This usually happens around Easter time.

Palmers Rough is approximately one mile from school and accessed on foot (by walking bus) with adequate adult supervision. Shirley Heath Wood is only a ten minute walk away.

Therefore, parental help will be required from around November, onwards.

*Waterproof clothing, ie. Waterproof jackets and waterproof dungarees will be provided for all children to put on over their own old, home clothing, at each session. Wellingtons/Strong walking boots must be provided from home. These will be stored safely at school, by Mrs Webb. Please clearly label the wellington boots with your child's name.

Aims of Blossomfield Infant and Nursery School Forest School Sessions:

· We look after ourselves and our friends at all times

· We look after our adult helpers and teachers

· We look after all of Nature and our environment

· We can be happy, feel safe and do our best.

· We have confidence to try things for ourselves

· We have fun learning together even when it is hard

· We are all different, we are all equal and we are all very special

· We will learn to make sensible and safe choices for ourselves and others.

·We aim to have lots of fun!

Forest School Clothing including P.P.E.

At Forest School, we need to be suitably dressed for all weather conditions and in this way we will feel prepared to take on new tasks and behave more appropriately. It can be muddy and wet and sometimes cold, outside and we will get dirty!

We will provide every child in year one with a full set of waterproof dungarees and a waterproof jacket to be worn over their own old home coat and old clothes, with their own wellingtons/walking boots ,on their feet, whenever we go out. Please name ALL clothing!

In addition to this, parents need to provide;

In cold weather:

·Gloves ·Scarf · Named wellington/walking boots

·Warm hat ·Warm coat or several layers of clothing

In warm weather:

·Sunhat ·Sensible footwear not sandals, eg Wellingtons or walking boots

·Thin material, long trousers to protect legs fully.

·Thin material, long sleeved top (for extra sun protection)

·Sunscreen cream (applied at home, **before** school)

Personal Protective Equipment (P.P.E)

This will be supplied as necessary when using tools or during different activities.

For example:

·Waterproof clothing.

·Strong work gloves, (if using tools or when gardening or cutting/sawing/whittling wood)

·**Helping adults:** may be cutting overhead wood/branches or removing hazards eg. stinging nettles, so goggles and/or strong gloves will be provided and worn.

Many Thanks Mrs Webb and The Year One Teaching staff!