

2016.01.12

Dear Parents of Owl Class,

**Re: Owls in the Forest!**

We are very excited to be starting a new 'Forest Schools' programme with Owls Class, beginning tomorrow. Forest Schools is a teaching and learning philosophy which involves using a woodland environment to learn through play in a cross-curricular way, with a strong focus on personal development. This week Miss Eastell will be reminding the children of the importance of staying safe in the woods. Then the children will be learning about how to keep warm in the cold weather which will involve an exercise trail. She will be linking exercise to our Value of the Month happiness, discussing how 'brain bubbles' (chemicals) get released when we exercise making us feel happy! Each week a Parent Mail message will be sent to parents outlining what the children will need to wear so please check for notifications. There is a lot of information online at [www.forestschools.com](http://www.forestschools.com) for those of you who would like to find out more.

The class will go each Friday beginning tomorrow in two groups of 15 - one in the morning, and one in the afternoon up until half term.

As, it is forecast to be a fine chilly day with sleet/snow dying out by early morning please can all children come with appropriate clothing and a named water bottle.

The clothing that Miss Eastell has recommended for tomorrow is as follows:

- waterproofs trousers also if you have them to wear over the top of trousers,
- extra layers on top i.e fleece jumpers and a coat which can be worn on top of school sweatshirt
- a hats, gloves and scarves
- I also recommend snow boots to keep toes warm if not 2 pairs of socks if you have wellies.

The more layers the better for insulation.

To avoid spending too much of the day getting changed, please can the children come to school on a Friday already in warm, long trousers which they can move easily in, such as jogging bottoms or leggings (not jeans or school trousers) with socks and trainers, with their usual school T-shirt and sweatshirt, ready for Forest School. Please can additional clothing and footwear be brought into school in a named carrier bag. The children can stay in these clothes all day (there is no need to bring in a change of clothes). Should anyone get especially muddy in the woods during the morning, PE kits can be worn for the rest of the day.

Finally, the more helpers we have, the more adventurous our activities can be! If you are available to help with Forest Schools either regularly or occasionally, please complete the form below. Many thanks in advance - your help is always very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely

*Mrs Smart*

Interim Headteacher

**Forest Schools - Offer of Help**

I am able to help with the following sessions (please tick):

|                      | Morning (9:30 - 11:30) | Afternoon (12.45- 2.45) |
|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Friday 20th January  |                        |                         |
| Friday 27th January  |                        |                         |
| Friday 3rd February  |                        |                         |
| Friday 10th February |                        |                         |

Name:

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Child's name:

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Contact phone number:

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