

Winhills Primary Academy

Part of The Diamond Learning Partnership Trust

Established in the Queen's Jubilee Year 2012

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21st May 2024

Dear Parents & Carers

Forest School/Outdoor Learning

We are pleased to offer the children in Year 5 and 6 the opportunity to attend the Forest School and Outdoor Learning throughout the remainder of the **Summer Term**.

What is Forest School?

The overall purpose of Forest School is to raise a child's self-esteem by creating a safe, creative and free environment that encourages children to explore their own capabilities and develop their social and practical skills in a way that utilises and celebrates a connection with nature. A huge element of this process is learning through play and allowing the children to discover the natural world in the way they find most engaging.

At Winhills, we have identified these aims for our Forest School Programme:

- To challenge ourselves in a safe learning environment
- To develop a curiosity and respect for nature and discover the changes that are always happening around us
- To gain independence and confidence in our own abilities
- To realise our own potentials
- To learn new, practical skills
- To build strong relationships with others
- To become compassionate, empathic individuals who care about others and their own individuality
- To create memorable experiences that will support all areas of development and have an impact beyond the sessions

What will the sessions look like?

The sessions are held on a **Tuesday morning**. Whilst there is a wooded area at Winhills, we will initially be using the school field and developing our gardening and plant knowledge skills.

What will they need?

As the programme is run from an outdoor space, this means that the children will be spending lots of time outside. It is likely that the activities the children get involved in will mean they may get dirty. In terms of the children getting as much as possible from the experience, it is important that they are not in clothes that they are worried about getting dirty as this can sometimes hold

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children back and ultimately affect their overall engagement with the activities. Therefore, old clothes are ideal as there is then little concern over their condition and children can just focus on getting stuck in! Long trousers are always recommended for Forest School, as this is an extra layer of protection from things such as scratches, stings or bites.

Suggested clothing list:

- Waterproof coat
- Sun Hat
- Long, comfortable trousers
- Appropriate outdoor footwear (wellies, walking boots, trainers)
- Warm socks

What happens now?

The sessions will begin on **Tuesday 4th June 2024** so please could children have all appropriate clothing in school by then. Children need to come to school in their Forest School clothes and have their uniform in their bag to change into afterwards.

If you have any questions about Forest School and your child's involvement, or feel there is any additional information we need to know, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

The Year 5 and Year 6 Team