



24 January 2017

'Forest School Friday's'
Welton Foundation Outdoor Learning

Dear Parent,

Since September, the Foundation Children have been participating in outdoor learning activities on the school site during their Friday afternoon topic sessions. We have been developing their skills in readiness to attend our outdoor learning site down at Welton Waters adjacent to the Welton Waters Activity Centre off Common Lane.

You no doubt will remember your child talking to you about the games we have been playing, learning to be safe around a campfire, learning to tie knots, making a tepee house for the three little pigs and learning how to whittle sticks.

This small plot of woodland was developed back in 2013 for use by the South Hunsley Partnership of Schools as a community project in association with Hull Trinity House Charity, Welton Waters Adventure Centre and the Partnership Cluster. The woodland has been developed into a suitable purpose made outdoor classroom learning environment for the delivery of **Forest School activities**. The aim, to provide a facility that would improve woodland biodiversity by increasing children and young peoples' awareness, understanding and enjoyment of outdoor learning and woodland spaces.

Commencing **Friday 3 February**, we will be taking groups of children down to the outdoor Forest school site. The children will be placed into 4 groups of 15 children per group mixed between both Miss Brash's and Miss Gregory's classes. All monetary costs have been met by the school. **All you need to do is ensure that your child has suitable outdoor clothing available in school each week** as groups not attending Welton Waters will be participating in outdoor learning activities in our school garden, ranging from physical development opportunities, gardening and developing a sustainable vegetable patch to working within our mud kitchen.

Each week one group, on a carousel basis, will walk to the outdoor learning site. We will be wearing high visibility vests as we walk down Common Lane, across the railway line assisted by the signalman, and continue on foot down to Welton Waters. We will be looking closely at similarities and differences in relation to the school grounds and our locality and how they

contrast to the woodland environment. This links to our knowledge and understanding of the world and geographic, scientific early learning goals and begins our forthcoming summer term topic on 'growth and minibeasts'.

Forest School strives to be inclusive, catering for all needs and abilities. The Forest School ethos helps pupils to succeed by providing the opportunity to undertake achievable tasks in a woodland environment that has been shown to be beneficial to young children as it provides a calming atmosphere for learning and interaction to take place.

Forest School endeavors to build self-esteem and independence in children over time through the exploration of and first hand experiences in the natural world. The five available sessions your child will be participating in between now and the end of the summer term, intends to whet the children's interest for future outdoor learning experiences at Welton Primary School.

Forest School is a long-term sustainable approach to outdoor learning and there is an awful lot of learning to be gained by just the 'walking to site' experience alone, of which will be our focus for our first trip out. Some of the activities your child will enjoy during their Forest School sessions are the use of a fire pit to make a fire and additional mini fires to cook with, for example, a simple snack like s'mores. Use of a Kelly kettle, campfire kettle to heat water to make hot drinks; use of fire lighting strikers; collecting natural objects; scavenger hunt; team building games; making items from wood; use of tools, developing their imagination and storytelling; social skills and circle time activities and group games. All of which will develop your child's independence and deepen their appreciation of the natural environment.

Essential Clothing Requirements

Your child will be working outdoors in a woodland environment for the entire afternoon come rain or shine and should dress appropriately to be able to participate in a variety of activities. The kit list below should help you decide what appropriate clothing your child should have available with them on a Friday. It is essential that your child has a coat with them even if the sun is shining on a hot summers day!

Essential Kit Items	Additional items to consider
Jacket or Raincoat or Waterproofs	Sun hat
Old trainers or Wellington boots or walking boots	Sun cream
Warm socks	Gloves
Long trousers or Jogging bottoms (<i>not leggings shorts or jeans</i>)	Change of underwear
Long sleeve layers for the top of the body depending on the weather may include T-shirt or Fleece or school sweatshirt or jumper	

Allergies & Medical information

Please may we remind you that it is imperative that you continue to inform the school office of your child's changing medical history so that we can keep our records up-to-date, this includes contact details and emergency numbers as we will need to have this information to hand when we leave the school site together with any medication. The medical information must also inform us of any changes to dietary requirements as we will be preparing and cooking food.

Yours sincerely
 Miss Gregory and Miss Brash
 Welton Primary School
 01482 667222