

LEYBOURNE SS PETER & PAUL C E PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Dear Parents

At Leybourne Ss Peter & Paul Primary School, we are fortunate enough to have a wonderful outdoor environment. We intend to make the most of our school grounds by becoming a Forest School. With that in mind, please find below some information about Forest School from Mrs Rachel Murray, our Forest School Lead:

What is Forest School?

Forest School is a long-term outdoor programme of activities delivered by trained practitioners within a natural environment and it takes place whatever the weather! Our programme will be tailored to meet the needs of the children as they grow in confidence, skills and understanding. The ethos of Forest School allows learners the time and space to develop skills, interests and understanding through practical, hands-on experiences. It also allows practitioners to step back and observe the children in order to then encourage and inspire individuals to achieve, through careful scaffolding and facilitating.

Where will Forest School be taking place?

The area that we use for our Forest School will be conducted in the woodland adjacent to the car park, and on occasions in other local outdoor spaces. All spaces used for Forest School have been risk assessed.

Who will be staffing the Forest School?

My name is Rachel Murray and I am a Play and Outdoor Education specialist and I have been trained in Forest school delivery. Each session will also be supported by the class teacher and TA. However, more adult helpers would be great and would make it even better, so if any parents (or grandparents) would like to help too, they would be most welcome. If you do not have DBS clearance, but are interested in helping, please let the office know.

Health and safety

The health and safety of all participants is central to everything undertaken within a Forest School Programme. Forest School leaders are fully trained in risk assessment and emergency first aid. The Forest School operates under the school's Health and Safety policy and policies and procedures regarding safeguarding and confidentiality. Alongside this, the following are completed:

- a seasonal and daily risk assessed site
- risk assessments for activities
- informed adult helpers
- First aid and emergency equipment.

Some of the activities the children may participate in are 'higher-risk activities' (such as campfire cooking or tool use). However, these activities are not available to the children until certain behaviours and boundaries are established. Children are encouraged and supported in recognising and managing risk for themselves, through real life situations and experiences.

We promote the learning and development of all children to achieve their full potential in a caring, happy, Christian environment.

What sort of activities will go on at Forest School?

The first sessions will focus on core skills and safety. Activities will increase week on week and may include:

- Games
- Cooking and eating wild food
- Storytelling
- Natural art activities
- Use of tools (if skills and behaviour indicators secured)
- Exploring
- Nature watching and bug hunting
- Climbing, rolling
- Practical woodland skills (eg. Willow weaving)
- Building dens
- Time to be quiet, reflect or talk

What benefits will my child get from participating in Forest School?

Forest School supports the holistic development of the child:

- Health and fitness – Being active in an outdoor, natural environment.
- Increased emotional well-being – just being among trees has been shown to have a real and positive effect.
- Social development – Communicating, sharing, negotiating and problem solving. Increased confidence.
- Skills development – Developing fine and gross motor skills and coordination for real purposes.
- Gaining knowledge and understanding – Multi-sensory, real-life learning, learning to care for our green spaces and wildlife.
- Individualised learning – Careful observation allows adults to tailor support to children's own interests and stage of development.
- Curriculum Links – Forest School supports many areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum and National Curriculum.

When will Forest School be taking place and how should the children be dressed?

This programme will start after half term, in Term 4 and the rota can be found at the end of this letter.

Please make sure that your child has appropriate clothing for the weather, for example wellingtons in the wet, or stout trainers in the dry. We suggest a pair of jogging bottoms and a long sleeved top as a base layer, adding layers according to the weather. Please ensure your child has a waterproof coat with them just in case there is rain.

On Forest School days, please send you child into school wearing clothing suitable for the weather which you don't mind them getting dirty and their school uniform in a named plastic bag.

Winter Kit List

2 pairs socks
Vest or t shirt or skins top
Long sleeved top
Trousers
Tights, sports skins, long johns or leggings for underneath
Fleece /jumper
Warm waterproof coat or warm coat and waterproof coat over the top
Waterproof trousers/ sallopets (or a waterproof all in one)
Wellies
Hat
Gloves

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Summer Kit List

Socks

T shirt

Light long trousers (shorts are permitted in hot weather but be advised that there are nettles and brambles on site)

Trainers or walking boots/shoes

Light waterproof jacket in case of showers

How can I help?

- Put the dates for Forest School on your fridge/in your calendar/or such like
- Make sure your child has the right clothing for the weather
- Listen to what your child is learning and feedback to us if you would like to
- Support forest school by supplying resources
- Come along to volunteer.

What resources can I donate?

- Pallets
- Light coloured sheets/material
- Access to wood we can use such as elder or hazel
- Tools including bow saws, loppers, secateurs
- Metal or plastic cooking bowls
- Flasks
- Wool, Ribbon, feathers
- Old kitchen equipment, saucepans, wooden spoon etc

If you have any questions or queries please email the office at: office@leybourne.kent.sch.uk and your email will then be forwarded to me. I will then either answer your question via email, or if more appropriate, set up a 'Forest School Surgery' at the school, so we can discuss further face-to-face.

Please complete and return the slip below.

Kindest regards

Rachel Murray
Forest School Lead

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Forest School

I am happy for my child.....to take part in Forest School and the activities listed above including tool and fire work and trying wild food.

Signed:..... Date:

Forest School Rota :

Tuesday and Friday mornings 10:00– 12:00

Fewer sessions for Year 6 due to KS2 Tests, bikeability, school journey, visits and their production.

Year 2 to have fewer sessions due to KS1 Tests preparation.

Term 4		
	Tuesday am	Friday am
Week 1 (21.02.17)	Year 2	Year 1
Week 2 (28.02.17)	Year R	Year 5
Week 3 (7.03.17)	Year 4	Year 3
Week 4 (14.03.17)	Year 1	Year R
Week 5 (21.03.17)	Year 5	Year 4
Week 6 (28.03.17)	Year 3	Year 1

Term 5		
	Tuesday am	Friday am
Week 1 (18.04.17)	Year R	Year 5
Week 2 (25.04.17)	Year 4	Year 3
Week 3 (02.05.17)	Year 1	Year R
Week 4 (09.05.17)	Year 5	Year 4
Week 5 (16.05.17)	Year 3	Year 1
Week 6 (23.05.17)	Year R	Year 6

Term 6		
	Tuesday am	Friday am
Week 1 (06.06.17)	Year 4	Year 3
Week 2 (13.06.17)	Year 2	Year 5
Week 3 (20.06.17)	Year R	Year 6
Week 4 (27.06.17)	Year 4	Year 3
Week 5 (04.07.17)	Year 2	Year 1
Week 6 (11.07.17)	Year 5	Year 6
Week 7 (18.07.17)	Year 2	INSET DAY

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