

# LEYBOURNE SS PETER & PAUL C E PRIMARY ACADEMY



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Dear Parents

At Leybourne Ss Peter & Paul Primary Academy, we are fortunate to have a wonderful outdoor environment. We endeavour to make the most of our school grounds as a base for our Woodland Learning activities. With that in mind, please find below some information about Woodland Learning.

## **What is Woodland Learning? (Previously known as Forest School)**

Woodland Learning is an outdoor programme of activities delivered by our school staff within our natural environment. It takes place whatever the weather! Our programme is tailored to meet the needs of the children as they grow in confidence, skills and understanding. The ethos of our Woodland Learning provision 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 does Woodland Learning take place?**

Our Woodland Learning activities are conducted in the woodland adjacent to the car park, and on occasions in other local outdoor spaces. All spaces used for Woodland Learning have been risk assessed.

## **Who runs Woodland Learning?**

Each session is run 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 are 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 our Woodland Learning activities. Staff are fully trained in risk assessment and emergency first aid. The Woodland Learning operates under the school's Health and Safety policy and policies and procedures regarding safeguarding and confidentiality. Alongside this, the following are actions are taken:

- the site is risk assessed on a seasonal and daily basis
- risk assessments are completed for all activities
- adult helpers are briefed before each session
- First aid and emergency equipment are checked regularly.

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



Leybourne Ss Peter & Paul CEP School is part of The Tenax School Trust which is an exempt charity and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales with company number 07542155. The registered office is at Culverden Down, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 9SH.

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.

### **What sort of activities go on as part of Woodland Learning?**

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

- Games
- Cooking and eating
- 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
- Exploring the stream
- Time to be quiet, reflect or talk

### **What benefits will my child get from participating in Woodland Learning?**

Woodland Learning 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 – Woodland Learning supports many areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum and National Curriculum.

### **When does Woodland Learning take place and how should the children be dressed?**

This programme runs throughout the year. Parents can find dates on the school website.

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. It is useful to have an all in one waterproof, in a larger size, to go over the top of a thick winter coat, please.

**On Woodland Learning days, please send your child into school wearing clothing suitable for the weather which you don't mind them getting dirty. School uniform should be sent in in a named 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/sallopettes (or a waterproof all in one)

Wellies

Hat and gloves

**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

Insect repellent

**How can I help?**

- Put the dates for Woodland Learning 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 Woodland Learning 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

If you have any questions or queries, please email the office at: [office@leybourne.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@leybourne.kent.sch.uk). Please complete and return the slip below.

Kindest regards

Tina Holditch

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**Woodland Learning**

I am happy for my child.....to take part in Woodland Learning and the activities listed above including tool and fire work.

Signed:..... Date: .....