



Chesterton CE Primary School
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Headteacher: Mr Iain Horner

2nd March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are very pleased to inform you that, from **Tuesday 9th March** until **Tuesday 27th April** (6 weeks), Ash Class will be taking part in 'Forest School' sessions. A qualified Forest School leader, Sally-Ann Woodrow, who is also a school governor, will be running the sessions, supported by Miss Claridge, Mrs Cresswell (Teaching Assistant), and Gemma Haynes (Parent Volunteer). We are extremely grateful to Sally-Ann and Gemma for giving up their time to enable these sessions to take place.



We are keen for Ash Class to start as soon as possible, as pupils have missed out on some sessions since the start of the pandemic and we want to offer as many visits to Forest School as possible for the classes yet to attend this academic year.

As we continue to adjust to the current, ever-changing situation, being active in the outdoors and making the most of our local environment has never been more important. We are happy that Forest School sessions can take place in line with our whole school Risk Assessment and all activities will be assessed in relation to the current COVID risk-reduction measures. If you have any specific questions about Forest School, please don't hesitate to contact the school office.

Forest School started in Scandinavia and is a way of learning in a woodland environment. It provides the space where people can develop socially, emotionally and physically through play, following individual and preferred learning styles. For more information, please visit <http://www.forestschoolassociation.org/>. We have been kindly allowed the use of a great piece of land in the village, which is in easy walking distance for the children.

At Chesterton Forest School, we will aim to nurture our children so that they can reach their full potential. We believe that it is vitally important to look at the whole child when considering their education and we think the holistic experience they receive as a member of our Forest School will equip them with the skills to become confident in their own abilities: in the classroom, outdoors and beyond. Forest School gives children the time and space necessary to develop the tools and skills to become resilient, independent and inquisitive learners. Our core aim is to engage children in the natural environment and to have fun. As we all know, when children have a purpose to their learning and are fully engaged they will achieve far more. At Chesterton Forest School, the learning continues beyond the classroom.

As Forest School is an all year round and all-weather activity, it is vitally important that the correct clothing is worn by children and adults alike. Pupils will need: a change of clothes from home, including tracksuit bottoms and a thick jumper; wellies (which should already be in school) and a waterproof coat. Even with all this personal protective equipment, it is possible that children can get their clothes wet or dirty.

Kind regards, Mr Horner