***Bespoke outdoor learning and Forest School***

From **January 2024** we will be starting again with our bespoke outdoor learning, which incorporates elements of Forest Schools. This will be part of our Curriculum time and we are pleased to inform you that the children will be working with **Mr Hadfield** from **Head into the Wild**. He has worked in education for 25 years as class teacher, head teacher and now runs his own business, delivering high quality Forest school, Bush craft and Survival skills.

The sessions allow the children to initiate, investigate, respect and maintain curiosity in the world around them. They will experience risk in a controlled way in the natural world. Mr Hadfield will lead the sessions, utilising our amazing school grounds including the pond area, and be supported by your child’s class teacher.

Activities will encourage children to:

* Develop personal and social skills
* Work through practical problems and challenges
* Use tools to create, build or manage
* Discover how they learn best
* Pursue knowledge that interests them
* Learn how to manage failures
* Build confidence in decision making and evaluating risk
* Develop practical skills
* Explore connections between humans, wildlife and the earth
* Regularly experience achievement and success
* Reflect on learning and experiences
* Develop their language and communication skills
* Improve physical motor skills
* Become more motivated
* Improve their concentration skills

Some activities might include:

* Shelter building
* Fire lighting and cooking on an open fire
* Tool use
* Studying wildlife
* Playing team and group games
* Sensory activities
* Rope and string work, tying knots
* Identification of trees, plants, mini-beasts and creatures in their natural habitat
* Soft Archery

**Clothing**

The children will need appropriate clothing that will protect them from extremes of weather, keep them covered to reduce the likelihood of cuts and scrapes, and are comfortable for them to be in for an extended period of time. The sessions will take place in all weathers, including if it is raining, so your child may become muddy and wet. Please ensure your child has a suitable bag to put their forest school clothes in after the session, particularly morning sessions where items will likely be wet and muddy.

**Clothing list:**

* Full length trousers/leggings/joggers, **not jeans**,
* Waterproof trousers (optional)
* Waterproof coat, with a hood (essential)
* Long sleeved top and layers to keep warm (these can be removed or added as needed)
* Wellies / walking boots / old trainers which can get wet or muddy
* Warm socks, and a spare pair
* Gloves and woolly hat – cold weather
* Sun hat and sun cream: that fits well to ensure good visibility– sunny weather

**Please see attached table re dates and times for individual classes.**

**Kind regards**

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**Mrs B Killalee and Mrs A Thompson**

**Deputy Headteachers**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **January** | **8th** | **YEAR FIVE/MAPLE** | am | **Maple (Yr3/4)** | **YEAR FIVE/MAPLE** |
| pm | **Willow (Yr5)** |
| **15th** | am | **Maple (Yr3/4)** |
| pm | **Willow (Yr5)** |
| **22nd** | am | **Willow (Yr5)** |
| pm | **Maple (Yr3/4)** |
| **29th** | am | **Willow (Yr5)** |
| pm | **Maple (Yr3/4)** |
| **February** | **5th** | **YEAR THREE/FOUR** | am | **Beech (Yr3/4)** | **YEAR THREE/FOUR** |
| pm | **Oak (Yr3/4)** |
| **12th** | am | **Beech (Yr3/4)** |
| pm | **Oak (Yr3/4)** |
| **26th** | am | **Oak (Yr3/4)** |
| pm | **Beech (Yr3/4)** |
| **March** | **4th** | am | **Oak (Yr3/4)** |
| pm | **Beech (Yr3/4)** |
| **11th** | **YEAR ONE** | am | **Apple (Yr1)** | **YEAR ONE** |
| pm | **Pear (Yr1)** |
| **18th** | am | **Apple (Yr1)** |
| pm | **Pear (Yr1)** |
| **25th** | am | **Pear (Yr1)** |
| pm | **Apple (Yr1)** |
| **June** | **10th** | am | **Pear (Yr1)** |
| pm | **Apple (Yr1)** |
| **17th** | **RECEPTION** | am | **Peach (Rec)** | **RECEPTION and YEAR 6** |
| pm | **Rowan** |
| **24th** | am | **Peach (Rec)** |
| pm | **Rowan** |
| **July** | **1st** | am | **Sycamore** |
| pm | **Peach (Rec)** |
| **8th** | am | **Sycamore** |
| pm | **Peach (Rec)** |

**Outdoor learning and Forest School will be on a MONDAY starting from 8th January 2024**

**WHAT TO WEAR?**

**Morning Session**

Come to school dressed in learning outdoor clothes; uniform in a bag for changing at lunchtime.

**Afternoon Session**

Come to school dressed in school uniform and change before lunch into outdoor clothes.

**Please Note: This programme of study will continue the following year so all children, as they move through school, will have access to learning outdoors.**