

Dear parent/guardian

Your child will be participating in sessions of the forest school approach to learning. The sessions will take place in Trevor's Wood on the Academy site. Each session led by an experienced outdoor leader with a Forest School and an outdoor first aid qualification. In addition, there will be at least one teacher from the Academy accompanying the children.

The forest school approach to learning is Forest school is a long-term approach to education, for children, young people and adults, which maximises the benefits of learning in the outdoors. In practice it puts the learner at the heart of their learning experience. Forest school offers young people the opportunity, over repeated visits, to engage with the rich natural diversity of the woodland environment to help build confidence, sensitivity, resilience and curiosity.

There will be a range of opportunities on offer to your child (age and group size dependant) This may include learning how to light and manage a small fire safely, how to cook on the fire and how to put the fire out in a way that leaves no trace.

Your child will participate in activities design to help them learn about different plants, shrubs and trees as well as different animals, birds and mini beasts that live within Trevor's Wood.

There will be opportunities to use a range of outdoor tools to help improve the woodland, create things from logs and branches. These opportunities will help develop their communication skills as well as working in a team and problem solving skills.

The sessions will go ahead whatever the weather (unless it is lightening or a gale force wind).

The clothing your child wears on the day of the session is very important. Please see the attached clothing checklist.

Clothing Checklist

When doing Forest School activities all limbs must be covered and clothing should be appropriate for the weather conditions and specific activities.

Sturdy boots/wellies and waterproof jacket are a must.

A standard suitable clothing list is as follows:

- Vest or T-shirt
- Long sleeved top
- Hooded top/fleece or thick jumper
- Waterproof jacket/windproof jacket
- Thick socks (or two pairs of thin ones)
- Long Trousers
- Waterproof Trousers
- Wellingtons/waterproof boots that give ankle support
- Long socks
- Sunhat, woollen hat, gloves and scarf.
- Sun cream and insect repellent.

It is better that children put on different layers to avoid becoming too cold. It is better that they are able to take layers off rather than not have enough layers. Even in cold weather if the sun is out, a hat is essential.

If you have any concerns about the above checklist, please contact the school for further advice. You will be notified when your child is taking part in a forestry school session.