



ST. STEPHEN'S JUNIOR SCHOOL

Head Teacher: MR STUART PYWELL

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 @SSJS Canterbury

Dear Parent

4th September 2018

As you may be aware, Forest School is becoming a whole school initiative this year (2018-2019). Each class will have a 2 hour forest school session once every 4 weeks.

Forest School can be defined using the following Principles:

- It takes place over a long time rather than being squeezed in to a few sessions.
- Forest School takes place in a natural or wooded place.
- Forest School focuses on child led learning to promote development.
- It aims to improve levels of, resilience, confidence, independence and creativity.
- Forest School takes supported risks appropriate to the learners age and ability.
 - These will include the use of: tools (knives, axes, saws e.t.c.)
 - The making and use of fire.
 - Building shelters.
 - Being outside whatever the weather.
- Forest School is run by a qualified Level 3 Forest School Leader (Mr Chamberlain passed his Level 3 last year).

There are elements of Forest School that pose more of a risk than the classroom environment. Because of this the children are expected to wear appropriate clothes.

- Long trousers and long sleeves (regardless of weather) children need their arms and legs covered to prevent scratches, stings and grazes.
- FTP (Full Toe Protection), appropriate shoes must be worn, no sandals or flip flops. Wellies are recommended as Forest School can get messy.
- Gloves are optional but a popular option for children who like to get messy.
- On cold or wet days, coats and hats are compulsory.
- All children must bring a water bottle.

Children who fail to bring the right clothes will not be permitted to take part.

Children will need to return a signed permission form for forest school ASAP.

Forest School is still a new aspect of St Stephens Junior School and we are keen to share as much of the experience with parents and families as possible. Please follow @SSJSCanterbury on twitter for regular updates.

I am aware that a lot of children are excited for Forest School this year and I must admit I'm excited that so many will be participating!

Yours faithfully
Mr L Chamberlain
Level 3 Forest School Leader

Name Class

I give permission for my child to use tools and fire under close supervision.

I give permission for my child to have their photo taken for the school website and twitter (No names will be included)

Signed Parent/Guardian

Creativity

Independence

Respect