

Waterhouses CE Primary Academy

Waterfall Lane, Waterhouses, Stoke on Trent ST10 3HY
Tel: 01538 308 356 Email: office@waterhouses.staffs.sch.uk
Web: www.waterhouses.staffs.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mr David Wood



8th September 2020

Dear Parent and Carers

Re: Invitation to take part in our Forest School Programme – Otters/Penguins

We are delighted to announce that our school is continuing to work with Katie Busfield from Tanglewood (www.tanglewooddays.com) to run a Forest Schools programme in the school grounds for this academic year. We have extended the time Katie will be in school with us and aim for each child to participate in Forest School activities for at least half the academic year. We will notify you each half term if your child's class is participating to ensure they have the suitable clothing.

Autumn 1 date & times:

The Forest School will take place on a Friday from **Friday 11th September 2020**

What is Forest Schools?

Forest Schools is a powerful and unique approach to outdoor play and learning. Forest school leaders facilitate a range of engaging, challenging and achievable child led activities that are provided on a regular basis by a qualified Forest School Leader in a woodland environment.

What sort of activities will my child take part in?

Following a safety talk, the children will walk to the Forest School area and carry out a range of activities e.g. teamwork skills are developed through games and activities and individual skills and self-esteem are heightened throughout activities such as hide and seek, storytelling, games, shelter building, or environmental art.

Tools are used in Forest Schools in a traditional woodland manner and are introduced gradually with a structured safety base that the children become familiar with. Tools are only used under the supervision of the qualified Forest School leader and a "Tool Talk" is conducted at the beginning of each session that demonstrates the safe use of each specific tool.

The children will also have the opportunity to find out how to safely light fires and cook food under the close supervision of the Forest School Leader.

I would also appreciate it if you could read and review the following important pieces of information:

- All sessions are held either at the Forest School site at the copse at the back of the school field or in our new outdoor area in the school grounds.
- **On the days your child is due to participate can you please ensure your child comes to school in suitable clothing rather than their school uniform.** I would suggest tracksuit bottoms and top. In a separate bag please can you ensure that they have waterproof jacket and trousers (in wet weather), hats and gloves (in colder weather) and suitable outdoor footwear such as Wellington boots or light hiking boots.

PTO

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- The safety of all participants in Forest Schools is taken very seriously and all activities have been risk assessed. In the event of extreme bad weather alternative indoor activities will be carried out and/or the session will be cancelled.

I hope your child enjoys the Forest School Programme. If you have any questions, please contact the school.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. Dodson
Deputy Headteacher