



Bishop John Robinson CE Primary School

Head Teacher: Mr Matthew Harris
Assistant Head Teachers: Mrs Kim Valentine & Miss Sarah Biney
School Business Manager: Mrs Karen Fletcher

Hoveton Road, Thamesmead

London SE28 8LW

Tel: 0208 310 9160

Fax: 0208 320 8637

Email: admin@bjr.greenwich.sch.uk

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are very excited to share with you news about our Forest School! Miss Farrant will be leading weekly Forest School sessions with groups of children from Year 1. Sessions will take place within the school grounds and will occur every Wednesday afternoon.

What is Forest School?

Forest School is an ethos which encourages the development of children's emotional and physical development through outdoor play, activities and exploration in a woodland environment. The philosophy of Forest School is to encourage and inspire individuals of any age through positive experiences and participation in engaging and motivating achievable tasks and activities fostering:

- Independence
- Confidence
- Communication Skills
- Self-esteem.

Originally a concept developed in Denmark, children attending Forest Schools were found to have developed strong social skills, the ability to work in groups effectively and generally had high esteem and confidence in their own capabilities. These attributes proved to be an effective foundation that raised academic achievements and is therefore an excellent way to support the National Curriculum and consolidate learning in the classroom.

Forest School at Bishop John Robinson.

Forest School takes place outdoors whatever the weather, all year round. Therefore, it is important to dress suitably. Layers are best and temperatures and conditions may vary. The following are advised:

- Long sleeve warm top
- Long trousers
- Closed shoes / wellies / boots
- Sun hat / Woolly hat and gloves
- An emergency change of clothes and a carrier bag for dirty / wet clothing

Children will be required to wear a long-sleeved top, trousers and closed in footwear in order to participate in sessions. Waterproof clothing will be provided for your child. We will undertake activities such as shelter building, bug hunting, den making, knot tying and other creative tasks.





Bishop John Robinson CE Primary School

Head Teacher: Mr Matthew Harris

Assistant Head Teachers: Mrs Kim Valentine & Miss Sarah Biney

School Business Manager: Mrs Karen Fletcher

Many activities will be spontaneous, based upon the children's interest. Forest School activities involve the lighting of fires and the use of tools such as peelers and bow saws. However, at this early stage, your child will NOT be using tools or lighting fires. You will be notified in advance if any tool or fire work planned.

All of our activities will be checked for safety and risk assessments will be carried out, and Miss Farrant has completed the relevant training with the local authority to become our qualified Forest School Leader.

If you are happy for your child to take part in Forest School, then please complete the consent form below.

If you would like to volunteer to help support the children in their Forest School sessions, please tick the additional box on the form below.

If you have any questions, I will be happy to talk to you.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Farrant
Forest School Leader

Mr Harris
Headteacher

✂-----

RE: Forest School Permission

Name of Child: _____

Class: Yr1 Thankfulness Class

- I / We give permission for our child to attend Forest School with Miss Farrant.
- I / We will provide a change of clothes for our child in a carrier bag on Wednesdays (dates to be advised)
- I / We will provide our child with wellies or waterproof boots

Signed (Parent or Carer): _____

Date: _____

Parent Volunteers:

- I am able and willing to support Forest School sessions on Wednesdays. *(The school office will contact you to arrange further details).*