

St Thomas á Becket Church of England Federation

Framfield C.E. School
The Street
Framfield
Uckfield
East Sussex
TN22 5NR



Blackboys C.E. School
School Lane
Blackboys
Uckfield
East Sussex
TN22 5LL

Head of School: Mrs J Davies

Head of School: Mr G Sullivan

**Executive Headteacher:
Mrs J F King**

27th January 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Forest School at Framfield CEP School

Further to my letter dated 25th November 2016, I am writing to update you on our exciting Forest School initiative.

Thank you to all of you who have offered support in the creation and running of the Forest School, it is fantastic to have the involvement of our school community. We are planning for the necessary groundwork to be carried out within the next couple of weeks. It is our aim to start Forest School sessions in term 4.

I am delighted to inform you that the Forest School lessons will be led by Mrs Lydia Godfrey. Mrs Godfrey is a trained Forest School leader who has been responsible for the successful Forest school tuition at Blackboys School since 2014. Please find attached an information sheet from Mrs Godfrey, which gives details of what the children will be doing at Forest School and their associated benefits. Mrs Godfrey not only brings her expertise but she will also supply many of the necessary materials required for the sessions, ie ropes, tarpaulin, tools. Mrs Godfrey will be delivering two sessions a week - on a Monday and Thursday morning. We are very grateful that our PTFA have generously agreed to fund one session per week and the other session will be funded by the school. We will issue a timetable soon to confirm when your child will have his/her sessions.

It is important that the children will be able to participate in Forest School, *whatever the weather*. They will need to bring in a bag of old, warm clothes for the sessions and will require wellington boots and full waterproofs ie waterproof trousers and jacket/waterproof all in one. We are intending to buy a small quantity of waterproofs and would ask you to complete the reply slip overleaf to indicate whether your child has a set or if you are prepared to buy a set for your child. Please return the reply slip to the school office by Friday 3rd February 2017.

If you have any queries or concerns, please do come and see me.

Yours sincerely

Jacqueline Davies
Head of School

FOREST SCHOOL

Please return reply slip to the school office by Friday 3rd February 2017.

My child (print name): _____

has a full set of waterproofs (jacket and trousers).

has not got a set of waterproofs but I am willing to buy a set (which would be particularly useful if your child is in years 4/5 with the forthcoming Bowles residential).

will need to borrow a set of waterproofs.

I am willing to donate a set of waterproofs to fit age _____ which my child has outgrown.

Forest School is an inspirational process that offers ALL learners regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences in a woodland or natural environment with trees.

<http://www.forestschoollassociation.org/what-is-forest-school/>



We have a fantastic opportunity to develop a permanent site for our Forest School within the school grounds, extending to the patch of woodland beyond. Children will be able to gain a sense of ownership of this site and help manage it throughout the year. We will be working with natural materials and cultivating wildlife friendly planting.

My role as Forest School leader is to help implement the child-centric ethos of Forest School and encourage children to assess risk safely, gain independence and self-confidence. Our sessions will compliment classroom learning and, where possible, reiterate topic work.

Sessions include games then we could be doing simple woodwork, building a shelter or cooking on campfires and telling stories all around a theme from classwork. It always ends by sharing our thoughts on what we have done, enjoyed over a drink and a snack.

Forest School lends itself to awakening senses. If children listen more, see more and feel more, they will learn more. Above all, it's fun!

