



**The Forest School**  
Every Child, Every Chance



Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the start of a very exciting academic year. I hope you have all had a wonderful summer and that everyone close to you remains safe and well. I am delighted that the children are all going to be back with us this week and I am already looking forward to all that they will achieve in this coming term.

We really have had the most extraordinary 18 months together and the recent changes in legislation mean that there is no longer a requirement for fully vaccinated adults or children under 18 years of age to isolate if they have been in close contact with a COVID + case. There is a recommendation that a PCR test is taken in these circumstances. This is such a remarkable step towards the freedoms that we have always benefited from and means that we no longer have to close class bubbles about which I am sure you share my relief. We do remain very cautious however and update our risk assessment in line with community risk and government legislation. Obviously COVID has not gone away and we do need to continue to work together to ensure everyone's safety.

If your child displays symptoms of COVID 19 then they are still expected to take a PCR test and to isolate for the usual 10-day period (or unless the PCR test comes back negative). It is also requested that secondary parents continue to test their child twice each week throughout September - the government intends to review the guidance after this period and I will ensure you are made aware of the outcome of that in due course. I am aware that sometimes things can be quite confusing when there are changes and so to try and make things a little easier, I have attached a guidance document that hopefully summarises things. I wanted to give you advance notification that this will be my last term at the Forest School; I will be leaving at Christmas time after almost 5 years to take up a new appointment in Bradford. I know that sometimes this can feel a little unsettling for parents but I wanted to reassure you of the exciting plans that the Governors and the Trust have in place to secure future leadership of the school. This week an advertisement will be going out for an Executive Headteacher for both the Forest School and the new Selby Free School which is a really positive step. The Governors, the Trust and myself will ensure that you are keep you informed of all the developments along the way.

I'm not going to do any goodbyes yet - we have a full term ahead of us and I still have much that I want us to do but I am very aware of how important communications with parents and carers are and I wanted to make sure that you had lots of notice of this change. As always, any questions regarding this or anything else, you know where I am and I will remain at your service until my last day here. As you know I am out of school until 20th September and intend to tell the children on my return as I am sure that they may have some questions about this.

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Our playground work is well under way but unfortunately is a little behind schedule - I am awaiting confirmation from the contractors of a revised completion date but in the meantime, we are working today to ensure that the playground is fenced off so that children can still have an outside area that is safe to play in.

I will remain available to you whilst I am out of school on Ofsted training so feel free to contact me in any of the usual way - my response time may be a little slower but I will get back to you on the same day wherever possible. Whilst I am out the school is in the very capable hands of Miss Frankland and Mr James.

With best wishes

Michelle Farr  
Headteacher  
The Forest School

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