

14th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you have all had an enjoyable summer break with your children. We would like to welcome you all back to a new and exciting academic year and for those families who are joining us for the first time, we warmly welcome you to The Forest School and very much look forward to working with you.

What an absolute delight it has been to see our young people back in school this week, full of energy and enthusiasm. They have all certainly grown over the summer and have clearly returned ready to learn and eager to resume their friendships.

Our Year 6s, in particular, have moved into Year 7 with such ease and confidence and it has been lovely to see them supporting many of our new starters as they settle into their new school.

Once a few final arrangements have been made, you will receive your child's class timetable. Your teacher will also discuss how they will communicate with you and how you can communicate with them. We appreciate that most of our families miss the opportunity to have regular face-to-face interaction with classroom staff due to transport arrangements and because of this we understand the importance of effective communication through other means.

A few updates and reminders below:

**Building work**

We are in Phase 3 of our outdoor playground updates so we do have builders and contractors on site until October half term. This work is on schedule and is looking great. The enhancements will really support our children and we are all looking forward to completion.

**Communication around pupil absence**

Please ensure you call school each day to inform us if your child is absent and why. This is an important part of our safeguarding measures.

**Coats**

Please ensure your child comes to school with a named warm/waterproof coat - and when the weather gets colder, gloves and a hat are also recommended.

**PE Kit**

Children come to school in uniform and change into PE Kit. This allows us to support children in independence and healthy exercise routines. Please can you ensure PE Kit is named and adheres to our school uniform policy - navy or black shorts or tracksuit bottoms and a white T-shirt.

T. 01423 864583 E. [admin@forest-school.org.uk](mailto:admin@forest-school.org.uk)

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### **School Uniform**

Children are looking really smart this year and we wanted to thank you for ensuring they are in uniform and when reasonable adjustments have been made the clothing is as similar as possible to the uniform. Once your child commences Woodland Adventure sessions, we ask that they come to school in uniform and bring a change of clothes in a bag, or wear waterproofs over.

### **Packed lunches**

Whilst we understand and appreciate that many of our children have dietary needs, intolerances or special diets, please can you avoid sending your children into school with large chocolate bars, e.g. Mars, Wispa, Snickers etc and provide a smaller alternative.

Can we also ask that you avoid cans of fizzy pop and items containing nuts. Although we are not officially a nut-free school, we do have some pupils and staff who have nut allergies.

### **Individual Education Plans (IEPs)**

Once your child's teacher has gotten to know and assessed your child over the coming weeks, they will set individual targets linked to the outcomes within their EHCP, which will be embedded into your child's daily learning.

### **Topic Clouds**

Your class teacher will be sending home a 'topic cloud' highlighting the subjects, themes and topics your child will be learning throughout the autumn term, and suggestions for how you can support this learning at home.

### **Dates for your diary**

Meet the teacher event - *3rd October 2023 - 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm*

All parents have the chance to come into school and meet the teacher and other parents. This is a group opportunity not a parents evening. The teacher will be able to talk to you about the school day and show you the learning environment. If you cannot make this and want some details then please contact your class teacher and arrange a telephone call, virtual meet or an in person meet over this half term.

Christmas Fair - *8th December 2023 (time to be confirmed)*

A chance to come and celebrate the festivities with us and an opportunity to buy the lovely seasonal items the children have made during enterprise lessons. Bring the whole family along.

Training Days for this year

- Monday 8th January 2024
- Friday 9th February 2024
- Monday 8th April 2024
- Monday 22nd July 2024

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As always, thank you for your continued support and we look forward to working with you over the coming weeks and months.

Yours sincerely,

Shona Crichton  
Executive Principal

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