



Tudor Grange Primary Academy, St James

17th February 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

As you may know, Tudor Grange Primary Academy St James has developed a Forest School within the school grounds.

It is intended to use the Forest School to give children the unique opportunity of experiencing first hand, play and learning in a supervised and controlled outdoor environment. Forest School is the name for an approach to educating children in the outdoors, in small groups on a regular basis. This work will support the main curriculum and will have a strong emphasis on raising all children's self-esteem and independence. They will, over time, be given the chance to learn new skills including use of tools, fire making, cooking on an open fire, tying knots and shelter building. They will not necessarily do all of these things in each block.

The Forest School sessions will be led by Mrs Luckhurst who has completed her Level 3 training and is a qualified Forest School Leader. She has completed paediatric and outdoor First Aid training.

An integral part of the Forest School experience is that children will be outdoors in almost all weathers. With the exception of very high winds, very heavy rain and thunder storms, please assume that your child will be outside for the whole afternoon when they take part in Forest School.

Please send your child to school on their Forest School day wearing the following:-

(uniform will not be required on their allocated day)

- Old clothes with long sleeves / long legs.
- A waterproof coat and waterproof trousers.
- Waterproof sturdy footwear – wellies would be ideal.
- Extra layers of warm clothing underneath waterproofs during the cold weather.
- Hat and gloves.

Please bear in mind your child could possibly get muddy! Forest School programs operate all year round regardless of weather conditions.





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We have a large amount of risk assessments and policies in place, which you are welcome to read through. These are listed in our handbook and we can assure you that all risks have been reduced to an acceptable level. If you have any questions about Forest School, please feel free to ask.

Your child will take part in the Forest School sessions after February half term. The first session will be on **Wednesday 2nd March** – for the whole class. Your child will then be notified which day they will take part in Forest School for the following week (this will be either Wednesdays or Thursdays). The children will be accompanied by both Mrs Luckhurst and another member of staff and continue each week until the end of term.

Finally, as the Forest School program involves the use of woodworking tools if anyone has any green wood available (perhaps from pruning or trimming a garden tree) please would you consider donating it to our Forest School? We would also welcome any logs or larger pieces of wood you may have spare.

If you have any contacts with tree surgeons or other members of the community who might be able to help in the supply of wood please could you let Mrs Luckhurst know. You are also welcome to encourage your children to collect dry sticks and twigs which we can use as firewood.

Many thanks for your help and support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Deakin', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Miss S Deakin
Executive Principal for Primary

