



ST. MARY MAGDALENE'S
ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

A CATHOLIC EDUCATION FOR ALL

Wednesday 4th September 2024

Dear Parents/ Carers,

We are delighted that Mrs Ashley Gore is completing her Forest School training. She has worked very hard over the summer break to provide an amazing environment at the top end of the school field. Once the Forest School is up and running, there will be an Open Day for Parents and Carers to come and see the Forest School in action. Please see below the communication from Mrs Gore.

Mrs B Loughran
Headteacher

I am excited to inform you that we will be introducing Forest School to St Mary Magdalene's RC Primary School this Autumn term. Initially Forest School will take place with EYFS and Key Stage 1. Forest School will then be extended to Key stage 2 in the Spring term. Forest School gives children the unique opportunity of learning in an outdoor woodland environment which we are lucky enough to be able to provide within our school grounds.

What is Forest School?

Forest School is an opportunity for your child to experience nature in a safe, secure and hands on way. Forest School allows children to explore, play and problem solve using a range of activities with the aim of building their sense of independence, self-esteem and teamwork abilities. The children are taught about wildlife and the environment and how to respect all living things and protect the future of our planet.

When will sessions run?

*Forest School sessions will run on **Mondays (EYFS), Wednesdays (Year 1) and Thursdays (Year 2)** Your child will come to school in their Forest School clothes on their allotted day. We will be starting Forest School on **Wednesday 11th September so this will be Year 1. Thursday 12th September will be Year 2 start date and EYFS will be Monday 16th September.** The children will be attending either a morning session or afternoon session so for those children attending in the morning, they will need to bring school uniform to change into at lunch time. The class teacher will tell you which group your child will be attending.*

What will my child need?

We will be outdoors whatever the weather. We have a round house shelter to protect the children from any particularly bad weather. Being outside and experiencing all seasons and

A VOLUNTARY ACADEMY | HEADTEACHER: MRS B LOUGHRAN

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all weathers provides an ever-changing environment which enriches and inspires the children's learning experiences. Through this experience, the children build resilience and learn how to look after themselves in all weathers. When children are dressed appropriately, they will play and be happy whatever the weather. This is why it is vital that children MUST be dressed appropriately. We have put together a separate kit list to support you to make sure your child is appropriately dressed in all weathers.

*Please complete consent form via Parent Pay by **Friday 6th September.***

I am looking forward to starting this exciting adventure with your child.

Mrs Gore
Forest School Leader

Kit List

The children are outside in all weathers so we encourage parents to provide good footwear and waterproofs and to dress children in layers for the winter. The clothes your children wear when attending Forest school will determine their enjoyment of the sessions so here is a bit of guidance.

“There's no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing”.

Winter

- Layers! THE best way to keep warm. (We can always remove a layer but once cold, it can be hard to warm up)
- Base layers: joggers/leggings, long sleeve tops, cardigans/jumpers. Thermal preferred.
- Waterproof trousers
- Waterproof coat
- Waterproof walking boots (preferred) or Wellies (Wellies get very cold especially in snow)
- Warm thick socks or tights, (wool/ fleece/ fluffy) Normal socks in wellies are not warm enough for cooler weather. Plus, a spare pair in their bag – just in case!
- Woolly hats that cover the ears.
- Gloves, thermal and waterproof (Knitted gloves get damp and do not keep little hands warm enough during the colder months.)
- Snood is recommended rather than a scarf to avoid trailing and tangling.
- Water bottle

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- An emergency change of clothes and named carrier bags for dirty/wet clothing
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Please Note!

In summer, wellies, waterproof trousers and light long sleeves are still essential, to protect from thorns, nettles, ticks, insect bites etc. (Sandals and open toe shoes can be dangerous in woodland.) Please also send a sun cream and sun hats.



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