



Forest School at Whitehill Primary School

Puddles are for jumping in, mud is for mixing, squelching and sliding in and trees are for climbing. Expect your child to come home wet, dirty and muddy and you will know that they have had a wonderful time. We all wear high-vis waistcoats so the children and adults can be seen easily in the woods at all times.

Cold, wet, or hot children will not enjoy the Forest School experience so appropriate clothing needs to be worn. Long sleeved tops, long trousers and closed footwear are a must throughout the year to protect from insect bites, thorns, nettles or brambles.



We are planning on visiting the woods from the week beginning 24/09/18.

Please read and complete the consent form and contact details form with all of the information we need to know about your child and return to school by Wednesday 19th September by the latest. We look forward to enjoying woodland learning with all of your children!



“The more risks you allow your children to take the better they learn to look after themselves”

Roald Dahl



What is Woodland Learning?

Information for Parents



What is Woodland Learning/Forest School?

At Whitehill we are very fortunate to have links with Gravesend Grammar School for Boys where they allow us to use their woodland area within their large grounds with a variety of habitats to explore. We travel there on our school minibus in group of 12 children with 3 adults. The children go every other week for either a morning or afternoon session. We go whatever the weather (apart from high winds or extreme snow) so we need to be appropriately dressed for all occasions.

We will inform you of when your child will be going to Woodland Learning by sending home stickers in your child's contact book and there will be lists on the classroom windows the week before explaining who will be going the following week.

The children take part in outdoor activities using the natural resources in the woods, they use simple hand tools to make things and they learn from their play and by managing risk.



What are the benefits of Woodland Learning/ Forest School at our school?

- A safe environment for all and everyone- regardless of age, role and will be treated equally.
- Groups of children given regular visits to the same woodland together on a regular basis.
- We provide opportunities and encourage the children to learn through play and exploration.
- The sessions are child-led and allow for flexibility, encouraging the children to deviate from planned activities.
- Sessions will be led by a trained Forest School teacher (Mrs Wraight) with a great understanding of practical skills and activities, relevant learning theories and have the ability to match and adapt the activities to learners with different learning styles.
- Sessions allow the children to learn about the natural environment, develop practical skills, opportunities to develop self-awareness, social and communication skills and emotional intelligence.
- Sessions involve elements of reviewing and reflecting the activities that have taken place in that session building confidence and communication skills.
- Feedback from these sessions will be taken into account when planning future sessions.
- Children will be given opportunities to take risks, such as tool use, fire lighting and tree climbing This helps their physical development and mental limits.

What will the children need to wear for Woodland Learning sessions?

On the day your child is going to Woodland Learning they will need to be dressed appropriately for the weather. We aim to take the children in all types of weather. Rain, fog and sunshine all provide new and different opportunities to experience and appreciate. However, any extreme conditions will make the forest unsafe and so a session may have to be cancelled or finished early, for example in high winds or in the snow. If it is unsafe to drive the minibus we will have shorter sessions on our school site instead.

Autumn and Winter Clothing-

Lots of layers are needed for cold weather. A long sleeved t shirt, long sleeved jumper or sweatshirt, long trousers, warm waterproof coat, hat, gloves, shoes or trainers to change back into when we return to school and a pair of wellies with 2 pairs of socks. The school will provide your child with waterproof suit to wear.

Spring and Summer Clothing-

Long sleeved t-shirt, long sleeved jumper or sweatshirt, long trousers, lightweight coat, trainers or shoes to change back into when we return to school, wellies, sunhat and sunscreen to be applied at home.

Your child will come dressed for Woodland Learning on the day they will be going. Please remember spare shoes and welly boots with extra sock as feet do get cold!

