

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Your child has been selected to take part in a programme called 'Forest School'. Forest school is an opportunity for your child to experience nature and the outdoor environment in a safe, secure and hands on way.

Our 'forest' is a small area safely within the school grounds already has planted trees and wild flowers. Within the 'forest' school area we will create an area known as the fire circle where children can socialise, and where we may have campfires. We also use a range of tools in this area under 1:1 supervision.

A mixture of sycamore, oak, beech and silver birch trees can be found in the 'forest' school area, alongside bushes and many wild flowers. In addition to the trees and plants, there are old woodpiles to attract insects and small birds to our site. The children will be encouraged to investigate and explore nature, respecting all living things.

Research suggests that children learn best from first hand experiences. Exploring, playing and problem solving within the forest school area aims to encourage learning using a range of activities (both designed by the leader and instigated by the children themselves). Simultaneously, it supports children to develop a sense of independence, high self-esteem, teamwork and resilience where health and safety considerations are always of paramount importance.

The 'forest' school area we use is dry in the main but has a lot of sticks and plants underfoot. In order to ensure children are sufficiently protected from the weather and the forest school environment, and can participate fully and comfortably in each session, we advise the following clothing:

Winter clothing

- Long sleeved top/jumper
- Long trousers
- Warm hat and gloves
- Wellies or trainers (no open toe shoes)
- Waterproof coat or other coat

*We can provide waterproof coats and wellies if you do not have any for your child.

Summer clothing

- Light long sleeved top
- Light long trousers
- Sun hat/cap
- Sun cream
- Wellies or trainers (no open toe shoes)

Children must wear long sleeves and long trousers in both winter and summer to protect them from insect bites, sunburn, stinging nettles and thorns. Furthermore, as this clothing may get muddy, old clothes are recommended.

Please can you complete the attached consent form and return to the school office by Tuesday 20th April 2021. This is a wonderful opportunity for children to learn outdoors and apply their new learning within the classroom and if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs East

Deputy Headteacher

Forest School Consent Form



Activity: WMM Forest School **Date:** Summer term / Tuesday

Child's Name: _____

Age: _____ **Date of Birth:** _____

Medical Information about your child:

- a) Are there any medical conditions requiring medical treatment, including medication?
Yes / No

If Yes please give details:

- b) Please outline any dietary requirements:

- c) Does your child have any known allergies? Yes / No

If Yes please give details:

- d) If your child has an inhaler for Asthma they should be carried at all times.

- e) As an important part of our evaluation we may use video and photo evidence which we sometimes share on the website and twitter. Please state whether you are happy for us to do so: Yes / No

Parental/Carer Declaration

I agree to my child participating in Forest School activities including tool use and campfires. I understand the need for my child to behave in a responsible manner in order to take part in such activities.

PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD COMES WITH APPROPRIATE CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR. SEE CLOTHING SECTION.

I agree to my child having appropriate medical care in the event of an accident.

Signed _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____

Contact number: _____

April 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,



RE: Photo and Food Tasting Permission at Forest School

Currently the teaching staff at West Moors Middle School use their school camera to capture the work the children are doing. As a Forest School Leader I am currently building up my personal portfolio of Forest School projects that I am leading on. Alongside plans and benefit/risk assessments, photographs and videos are useful to show exactly what happens during a session. I wish to include pictures and videos of your children learning in my portfolio. I will be using my portfolio as evidence for my work appraisals; to show case to other providers or future clients the types of activities and learning I can facilitate and to use in presentations to parents about Forest School. All photographs and videos will stay anonymous and I will **not** be sharing these on social media platforms.

At Forest School our activities may involve outdoor cooking and then sharing the cooked food within the session. On very cold days we will enjoy hot squash to help keep us warm.

Please return the slip below to your class teacher or directly to me on a _____ morning when you drop your child off for Forest School.

Yours Faithfully,

Jess (Miss Jess Elvin)

Forest School Leader at Judy's House



Photo and Food Tasting Permission at Forest School

Child's Name: _____ Class: _____

I *do* / *do not** give permission for the Forest School Leader (Jess) to take photographs and videos of my child while they attend Forest School for her portfolio.

I *do* / *do not** agree to my child eating food cooked at Forest School and having hot squash.

Please give details of any dietary requirements:

**delete as appropriate*

Signed _____ Date: _____

