

ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Hartfield, East Sussex, TN7 4AA

Learning with Love, Strength and Faith, following the example of Jesus



Executive Headteacher: Mr J Procter
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Wednesday 8th September 2021

Dear Lilac Class Parents,

We are continuing our Forest School programme for all of the children at St Mary's School. The sessions are delivered to each class on consecutive weeks, allowing them the full experience of different seasons, changes, growth in the environment etc. The classes will be having their sessions on **Thursday afternoons** (see dates below). The sessions will be delivered with support from each class teacher and volunteers each week at Sawpit Woods, Hodore Farm, Parrock Lane, Hartfield, TN7 4AR.

A growing body of research is showing that connection and learning outdoors is hugely beneficial to a child's personal, social, linguistic, educational and economic well-being and development, along with the self-evident benefits of physical activity. Forest School is a pedagogy based on child-led enquiry, as are our sessions with the children. We have updated the risk assessments to include extra precautions around COVID-19 and these are available on the website under the 'Forest School' tab if you would like to read them.

As part of a Forest School programme, children can learn through direct engagement with their environment. The activities they cover are linked to their term's topic and are closely discussed with class teachers to provide extended cross curricular learning and development. The children might learn scientific identification and enquiry; art; there are numerous opportunities for maths, with shape and space, counting sticks and flowers; and literacy, through storytelling and other activities.

More information about Forest School and its pedagogy can be found at: <http://www.forestschoollassociation.org/>

We will walk the children to the site from school after lunch and would ask that they can be collected from the farm at 3pm, allowing you to collect any other siblings from school at the normal time. If transport is going to be a problem, please talk to your class rep about organising lift shares with parents in the class. Please inform the School Office if you are not picking your child up.

Dates for sessions:

Thursday 7th October
Thursday 25th November
Thursday 27th January
Thursday 17th March
Thursday 12th May
Thursday 30th June

Directions:

From Hartfield, drive on the B2110 to Forest Row. Just before 'Central Garage', turn right down Parrock Lane. After 100m as the road bends left, you turn right onto a farm drive (signs for Hodore Farm, Wealdlink, Sensory Guru). Drive down the farm drive, about half a mile, go over 4 speed bumps, go around the right-hand side of the green and then left up past the pond and bear left, where there is space to park on the grass, off the farm road and collect the children.





We will ask you to collect your children from Hodore Farm at the grey dropped pin at 3pm. If you need directions to the site please ask Miss Munn in Maple class.

What your child will need:

“There is no such thing as bad weather- just the wrong clothes”. We will be in the woods, which can be wet, muddy, prickly, sunny, shady...so we ask that your child has:

- Waterproof trousers and a waterproof coat to go over their school uniform
- Wellies
- Small rucksack to contain a water bottle and a snack
- We may leave book bags or other belongings at school for the children to collect the next day.

If the weather is really warm, then to change from their school uniform into

- A long-sleeved top to cover arms from sun and scratches from plants
- Long trousers or leggings to cover legs
- A sunhat

If you have any trouble resourcing these or need to borrow some equipment, please let us know in advance and we can support you with this.

We rely on fantastic volunteers to make this programme possible for the children. If you would like to volunteer to help, please could you let Mrs Funnell in the office know and she can help you get set up.

Thank you in advance for your support,

L Munn

Miss Munn
Forest School Leader

Please complete all sections and return to school by Monday 13th September 2021

Child's name	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> I give permission for my child to attend the Forest School programme delivered by Forest School Leaders. <input type="radio"/> I understand that my child will need suitable clothing and footwear as advised. <input type="radio"/> I give permission for my child to receive medical attention from qualified school staff and/or medical staff in an emergency. (The school will normally act in <i>loco parentis</i> until a parent is able to attend). <input type="radio"/> I give my permission for photos to be taken during Forest School Sessions to be used in the (delete as appropriate) newsletter, website, school prospectus/ brochures. 	
Any medical issues, insect allergies, concerns and information for Forest School team Please include any information about medication (inhalers, Epi pens etc) that need to go with the child.	
<u>EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION:</u> Number Name Relationship Name of Parent/Carer Signature of Parent/Carer	
Any other information or comments:	

Please let us know if any of this information changes over the year.