

Hello from Forest School!!

A big WELCOME to all of you who are new to Forest School at Western Road, and a huge, WELCOME BACK! To all of you who have been before!! I'm very excited at the prospect of seeing the children and adults who come up and make such a lovely community!

Each class will have 6 sessions. Dates for each class are at the end of this letter. Please look out for a sign up sheet to volunteer on what's app soon. I will also leave a sign up sheet at Reception in case you can't access the google docs form. Any family member who is keen, is welcome! (Grandparents, uncles, aunts; big brothers and sisters ...)

How it works:

Half the class will go out in the morning and half after lunch. Each session is 2 hours long.

Please send your child in for the day in their own clothes, ready for getting mucky. We will be out in all weathers. Please send your child in with waterPROOF clothing, layers, and also a bag of spare clothing and extra socks and shoes, just in case they get wet during the session. They may also need suncream, a hat, and a water bottle. Long sleeve clothes are best because of the brambles. Please provide your child with sturdy footwear, and bring a spare pair of shoes for when they are inside school. We take off our boots when we go into the school building so we don't tread mud around inside.

Wellies are best. NO SANDALS!!!!!!!!!!!! Sticks get stuck in them and cause injury.

At Forest School, we will be out in our woodland making fire; playing games, crafting, working with tools, shelter building, free playing, cooking and more. Forest School is great for problem solving, building up self esteem and emotional resilience. If you'd like to learn more about forest school, a good website to look at is: forestschoollassociation.org

I will not have any teaching staff at the Forest School site, so I will be relying on volunteers to help run the Forest School effectively. I will be leading the sessions, and I am first aid trained. We have radio access to the school staff if there are any emergencies.

Family members and carers; **please do volunteer** for one session or more - either a morning or afternoon. Please do come and help out if you can. A higher adult - child ratio means that the children will be allowed to explore more freely, and I can plan for more risky activities. (Fire, use of tools...) There is a list with which session (AM/PM) your child is in,

attached with this email. Watch out for a google docs sign up sheet which will be shared on your year group's what's app list. Please write your own name, and (your child's name in brackets). Alternatively, please do email me with any times that you can help out on:

Email: katiegriffiths@westernroad.e-sussex.sch.uk

EYFS dates:

Monday 28th April.

Monday 12th May

Monday 19th May

TERM 6:

Monday 9th June

Monday 16th June

Monday 23rd June.

*The first 3 sessions for EYFS will be split into a morning session and an afternoon one with half the class in each session. In term 6, we are thinking of running whole class sessions so that Miss Jones can also come up and co-run the session, and we can also have a longer 3 hour morning up there. More details to follow.

Year 1:

TERM 5: Tuesdays. First session: 22nd April. 5 sessions in term5.

TERM 6: One last session (Their 6th session) - Monday 30th June.

Year 4:

TERM 5: Thursdays. First session: 24th April. 5 Sessions in term5.

TERM 6: 6th Session - Monday 7th July.

Extra Session: Experimental whole class session; 9am - 12noon:

Monday 14th July.

Year 2:

Term 6: Tuesdays.

First session - 3rd June

Last session - July 8th.

Year 6:

Term 6: Thursdays.

First Session - June 5th

Last session - July 10th.

REALLY looking forward to it!!

I will be setting up Forest School in different settings, too in future.
I would very much appreciate it if you would send me some testimonials for me to send on to other schools, please!

Katie Griffiths x