



Castle Hill Primary School

'Building Independence, Broadening Horizons, Brightening Futures'



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Dear parents and carers,

I have recently completed my level 3 Forest School Leader training so I can now lead and run my own sessions. I have been running Forest School in Early Years for two years now and I am now going to be running sessions with all year groups at Castle Hill. I have met with all of the class teachers to discuss who would benefit the most from a weekly Forest School session. Your child has been chosen to take part in Forest School on a Tuesday afternoon 1.30-3.30pm.

Forest School Clothing:

Forest School sessions will take place in all weathers unless the safety of the children is in question, due to high winds or lightning. Suitable clothing is essential for everyone participating; we need to be adequately dressed in order to gain the full learning potential of the session. Your child will need a bag with the following items:

- Long sleeved t-shirt, jumper or cardigan.
- A pair of named wellies.
- Waterproof trousers (You can get a cheap pair of waterproof trousers from stores such as Sports Direct or the clearance section in outdoor clothing shops).
- A warm and waterproof coat.
- During the summer, a sunhat and sunscreen should be supplied.
- During the colder months, extra layers such as a fleece, leggings, tights, hats and gloves etc. are required.

Your child's Forest School kit will be left at school where we will keep it in a secure place (apart from their coat) so that they have it for all of our sessions. Please make sure everything is named.

The main aims of Forest School are:

- To provide opportunity for individuals to develop, to learn and to enjoy themselves.
- To provide a safe environment in which pupils can take risks.
- To build on children's problem solving skills and encourage them to think outside the box.
- To help pupils understand, appreciate and care for the natural environment.
- To develop self-esteem and confidence
- Provide opportunities to learn through small, achievable tasks.
- To meet the needs of all pupils with all learning styles.
- To develop social and team working skills.
- To enable pupils to be independent, self-motivated and considerate.
- To be true to the forest school ethos and approach.
- To develop a secure, happy and welcoming environment.
- To provide stimulation and varied learning activities appropriate to the pupils needs and stages of development.
- To help each pupil build self-esteem, confidence, independence and self-control and interpersonal skills.
- To build on listening skills and turn taking.

A typical session may include team games, exploring our environment, den building, using tools, snack time around a camp fire, outdoor art and so much more. There will always be a wide range of activities on offer and children will have free time to choose what they would like to do. If you have any questions about Forest School please come and speak to me. I am happy to answer any questions or address any concerns. You can also email me at Kerry.gough@castlehill.calderdale.sch.uk.

Thanks,

Kerry Gough
Reception Teacher



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