

01548 561444 <u>malborough@southhamsfederation.org.uk</u>

7<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Reception and Year 1 children will have Forest School once a week throughout their Reception year.

Reception children will be introduced to their Forest School area. An important part of Forest School is learning about and respecting boundaries. A lot of time is spent so that the children are confident with their outdoor learning environment and understanding where they can play. Reception children will experience all the seasons throughout the year and will learn to dress appropriately according to the weather. They will be introduced to the Forest School rules, for example, learning to listen for and respond to the whistle, learning how to approach and leave the fire pit, learning about the different areas of play and resources available. They will find out about our native trees, plants and insects and learn how to recognise some of them. They will have the opportunity to toast marshmallows on the fire if adequate adult support is available.

Year 1 children will build on their previous years experiences and develop an awareness of North, South, East and West, continue with their knot skills and investigate different ways to make mini shelters. On top of this they will have the time to follow their own line of enquiry and choose where they want to work and play. They will build on their tool use skills and use the fire pit to cook on with adult support.

Year 2 children will use the flint and steel to light their own 5-minute fires. They will learn about what a fire needs and understand the different grades of sticks to maintain a fire. They will begin to experiment with different types of shelters using their increasing knowledge of knots to keep tarps secure. They will have the opportunity to work with willow and then build on all their previous Forest School experiences.

Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will have their Forest School sessions during the spring and summer terms. Even though the children are older, if possible, we still need some extra adult support in order for the children to walk up to their Forest School site safely. Due to the nature of Forest School, using tools, fire, crafts and tree climbing, the greater the number of adults present, the more positive and enjoyable experience the children have. We greatly appreciate any adult help, be it parents, aunties, uncles or grand-parents. If you can help out for a session or two, (you don't have to commit to all of them), please speak to Mrs Roberto in the office so that she can check that all paperwork is in place. This does take a while to come through, so please approach her before your child starts their Forest School sessions.

Forest School develops problem solving skills, independent learning, character building, teamwork, resilience and self-confidence. Children that come to Forest School are encouraged to participate and sessions are catered for different learning styles. For your child/ren to fully benefit from Forest School suitable clothing is essential we do have all in one wetsuits and spare wellington boots however underlayers of clothing is also essential in context with the seasons. We recommend old clothing such as leggings or joggers and long-sleeved tops. This is to protect your child from any insect bites or tick bites. To reduce the risk of a tick-borne infection we also suggest you check your child after a Forest School Session and remove any ticks.







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As always Forest School learning is play based and child initiated, the children are guided by their own interests and the adults present will support their needs wherever possible. No previous experience required, and lots of fun will be had by all.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Stallard Head of School

## Privacy Notice

The information you provide will be used for the purposes of maintaining pupil records and for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of students at Malborough with South Huish C of E (VC) Primary School. We will not use or share your information for any other purpose unless we have your consent, or the law allows us to do so. We are committed to protecting your information and will handle it in line with the General Data Protection Regulation 2016. You have the right to withdraw consent at any time by contacting us at <u>malborough@southhamsfederation.org.uk</u>. For more information about how we handle personal information please refer to our Pupil Privacy Notice and for any further queries please email us at: malborough@southhamsfederation.org.uk



