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Dear Parents/Carers

I am introducing an exciting new experience for the children to enjoy called "Forest School" to Village Primary School. It has become very popular in recent years within the UK. It allows children to learn, explore, increase self-esteem and gain confidence within an outdoor learning environment: through nature. I intend to use the woodland areas within the school grounds for Forest School during a normal school day.

Children will experience outdoor learning in a flexible, self-led, adult-led way; ensuring that they learn and use their imagination through new experiences; becoming highly motivated, confident, enthusiastic learners and explorers. Children will learn how to safely use different outdoor tools such as pen-knives, bow saws, secateurs as well as fire building. These will be adult supervised and safety rules will be taught to the children. They will learn in a variety of weathers and in all seasons; this is all part of Forest School. Children will learn how to safely use outdoor tools, play games, "create" using natural resources and cook over a campfire.

Because the children may get dirty and wet during these sessions, they will be expected to wear:

- ✓ old trousers;
- ✓ wellington boots;
- ✓ fleeces or old warm top;
- ✓ waterproof coat;

- ✓ hat;
- ✓ gloves;
- ✓ Waterproof trousers if they have a pair.

Please send your child's forest school kit into school in a labelled carrier bag as soon as possible so we can check who is ready to take part. The kit can then stay in school for the 6 weeks so that no-one misses their session. If you have any spare outdoor clothing, outdoor shoes or wellingtons, donations would be gratefully received. Please pass these to me before or after school or you can give them in at the office. Our Forest School sessions will be on a Thursday afternoon for 6 weeks. The first Forest School will be on Thursday 4th May 2017. I do have some fleeces and wellington boots for children that do not have these.

I am very excited about this new venture; look out for the display at school which will have news, photos and statements regularly updated.

Kind regards

Dawn Archer
Assistant Head teacher