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Headteacher: Mrs T A Cunningham B Ed (Hons)

William Law CE Primary School

## Learning Living Loving Together

9<sup>th</sup> September 2019



Dear Parent/Carer

### Forest Schools – Year 2 & 3

Forest School was a great success last year. The Year 2 children enjoyed the experience and learnt a lot of new skills. A huge thank you to Miss Jenkins and Mrs Moses for being so committed to Forest School training and bringing the initiative to William Law.

This year Forest School is being extended to Year 3. This means that a Year 2 and Year 3 class will take part, on a rota basis, every week on a Thursday.

An integral part of the Forest School experience is that children will be outdoors in all weathers, with the exception of very high winds and thunder storms. To help achieve this, please provide your child with suitable outdoor clothes ready for their forest school sessions to start. You will find an information leaflet attached and find your child's class sessions overleaf.

Forest School is expensive in that we have to pay for the Ferry Meadows site, coaches and equipment. The total cost of Forest School in 2019-20 will be £8,500. School budgets are continually being cut so extras like Forest School are at risk. At William Law we really value Forest School and would like it to continue. I am therefore asking parent/carers to help us by paying £20.00 a year towards Forest School, William Law will subsidise the rest.

Please can you go onto ParentPay and pay £20.00 or alternatively make two payments of £10.00, the first by Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September and the second by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020. This will help us to ensure that Forest School continues at William Law.

In line with school policy there is no charge for families in receipt of pupil premium based free school meals. If you are in receipt of pupil premium free school meals, you will receive an email from Mrs Wardell to consent to your child travelling to and from Ferry Meadows to participate in this activity.

Yours faithfully

Mrs T Cunningham  
Headteacher



SCHOOL MEMBER



William Law CE Primary School (a limited company) is registered in England and Wales as an Academy  
Company Registration No: 09060417  
Registered Office Address: Twelvetree Avenue, Werrington, Peterborough, PE4 5DT





*William Law CE Primary School  
Forest School*



# **Your child and Forest Schools Information for families**

## **What Are Forest Schools?**

Forest Schools learning outdoors, where students visit open-air spaces, primarily woodland. Forest Schools in Britain is defined as 'an inspirational process that offers children, young people and adults regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence through hands-on learning in a woodland environment.' (O'Brien, L; Murray, R, 2008).

Forest School sessions can be curriculum or non-curriculum based dependent on the needs of the students and their prior skills base.

Through Forest Schools, students attending William Law will be able to develop a life-long love and understanding of the natural environment, whilst developing the core purposes of the Forest Schools ethos, which are acquiring social skills, greater self-esteem, confidence and technical skills.

The distinct philosophy of Forest Schools is to encourage and inspire students in a natural setting from nursery age into adulthood. This is achieved by students working in small groups and mastering small, manageable tasks in a woodland environment. Thus, enabling the students to grow in confidence and independence, so they are able to develop a sense of self-worth. Tasks set will allow the students to acquire new skills with a suitable degree of challenge and excitement whilst remaining safe and controlled.

Forest Schools will aim to develop:

- Self-awareness;
- Self -regulation;
- Empathy;
- Good communication skills;
- Independence;
- A positive mental attitude, self-esteem and confidence.

Our Forest School will be child centred and based on topics for the student's age/development.

## **What do I need to know?**

Sessions must be led by a qualified level three Forest School Practitioner. Outdoor learning can be led by anyone who has a passion and inclination for it, but Forest School requires a specific set of skills and approach. Leaders will ensure that appropriate safety checks and insurance are in place.

## **How will my child benefit?**

Supporting the whole-child is of utmost importance in Forest School education – their physical, mental and emotional development. The skills the learners acquire are all transferrable and also benefit the classroom and home.

## **Practical things**

Sessions will take place in all weathers and all seasons. Students need to be dressed in appropriate clothing to enable them to enjoy the Forest School experience to the fullest.

The learners will need:

- Labelled waterproof clothing and boots
- Warm clothing
- Long sleeve tops and trousers
- Layers that they can remove if the weather is hot
- Sun cream (if weather is inclement)
- Hat, scarf and gloves if cold.

## **Further information and advice**

Visit <http://www.forestschoools.com/> for a wealth of information about the initiative.

School contact: Lily Jenkins, Phone 01733 577600

Email: [lily.jenkins@williamlaw.peterborough.sch.uk](mailto:lily.jenkins@williamlaw.peterborough.sch.uk)

## Year 2 – Forest School Dates – 2019-2020



William Law CE Primary School

Date	Place	Class
3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2019	Ferry Meadows	8 & 10
10 <sup>th</sup> October 2019		8 & 10
17 <sup>th</sup> October 2019	Ferry Meadows	8 & 10
31 <sup>st</sup> October 2019		8 & 10
7 <sup>th</sup> November 2019	Ferry Meadows	8 & 10
14 <sup>th</sup> November 2019		7 & 11
21 <sup>st</sup> November 2019	Ferry Meadows	7 & 11
28 <sup>th</sup> November 2019		7 & 11
5 <sup>th</sup> December 2019	Ferry Meadows	7 & 11
12 <sup>th</sup> December 2019	Ferry Meadows	7 & 11
9 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	Ferry Meadows	9 & 12
16 <sup>th</sup> January 2020		9 & 12
23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2020	Ferry Meadows	9 & 12
30 <sup>th</sup> January 2020		9 & 12
6 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	Ferry Meadows	9 & 12
13 <sup>th</sup> February 2020		8 & 10
27 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	Ferry Meadows	8 & 10
5 <sup>th</sup> March 2020		8 & 10
12 <sup>th</sup> March 2020	Ferry Meadows	8 & 10
19 <sup>th</sup> March 2020		8 & 10
26 <sup>th</sup> March 2020	Ferry Meadows	7 & 11
23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2020	Ferry Meadows	7 & 11
30 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	Ferry Meadows	7 & 11
7 <sup>th</sup> May 2020	Ferry Meadows	7 & 11
14 <sup>th</sup> May 2020		7 & 11
21 <sup>st</sup> May 2020	Ferry Meadows	9 & 12
4 <sup>th</sup> June 2020		9 & 12
11 <sup>th</sup> June 2020	Ferry Meadows	9 & 12
18 <sup>th</sup> June 2020		9 & 12
25 <sup>th</sup> June 2020	Ferry Meadows	9 & 12