

Every Child Matters

Sedlescombe Church of England Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Caroline Harvey



Brede Lane, Sedlescombe, Battle, East Sussex, TN33 0RQ

Tel: 01424 870585

Email: Mrs Hades: office@sedlescombecep.e-sussex.sch.uk

www.sedlescombecep.e-sussex.sch.uk

Friday 19th January 2018

Dear Parents / Carers,

Re: Year 5 Forest School

I am writing to inform you that your child is being given the opportunity to take part in an eight week Forest School Programme with Mr Saull-Hunt who is a qualified Forest School Leader. The programme is nationally well known for its numerous benefits. Mr Saull-Hunt is supported by Mrs Sinden who will also accompany the children each week. Children are stimulated by the outdoors and over time, an increase in their self-belief, confidence, learning capacity, social skills, enthusiasm, communication and problem-solving skills and emotional well-being can be seen.

What is Forest School?

'Forest School is an inspirational process that offers ALL learners regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences in a woodland or natural environment with trees'.

(Forest School Association)

At Sedlescombe Church of England Primary School, through our Forest School sessions, we hope to encourage independent, enthusiastic and creative learners who develop holistically through a well-planned and interesting child-centred approach.

The Forest School Principles

In developing our approach to Forest School at Sedlescombe Church of England Primary School we have adopted the ethos and principles of the Forest School Association. The Forest School ethos has 6 principles, which were agreed by the UK Forest School Community in 2011.

1. Forest School is a long term process of frequent and regular sessions and aims for children to visit in blocks of six to eight weeks each time. Planning, adaptation, observations and reviewing are all integral parts of the Forest School process.
2. It takes place in a woodland or natural wooded environment.
3. We aim to promote the holistic development of all children involved, fostering resilient, confident, independent and creative learners.

Respect for Everyone and Everything

Every Child Matters

4. We will offer learners the opportunity to take supported risks appropriate to the environment and themselves.
5. It will be managed by a qualified Forest School Practitioner; Mr Saull-Hunt has achieved the Level 3 Forest School Leadership Award.
6. We will use a range of learner centred processes to create a community for development and learning that is responsive to needs and interests of the learners.

The Forest School Principles and other information can be located at:

<http://www.forestschoollassociation.org/full-principles-and-criteria-for-good-practice/>

Clothing:

The children attending Forest School need to come to school wearing old clothes that you are happy to get dirty so that the children can get fully involved in the activities being offered without fear of getting dirty or ruining their clothes. The children need to wear old, warm clothes which cover their arms and legs. In addition they need a waterproof coat and leggings or all in one and wellington boots. Please note that jeans are not suitable as if they get wet they take a long time to dry and are then extremely uncomfortable. As the weather will be getting colder it would be helpful if they had a spare pair of thick socks and jumper in their rucksack that can be put on if the children start to get cold.

Session Dates:

Session 1	Friday 9th February
Session 2	Friday 23rd February
Session 3	Friday 2nd March
Session 4	Friday 9th March
Session 5	Friday 16th March
Session 6	Friday 23rd March
Session 7	Friday 20th April
Session 8	Friday 27th April

Your child's first session will be on Friday 9th February and will be an 8 week programme with the last session taking place on Friday 27th April. The children should bring a packed lunch with them each week and a water bottle in a rucksack lined with a plastic bag. The children will be cooking food on the fire each week in addition to their packed lunch so they have something warm to eat and drink.

Evaluation:

We would like to evaluate the programme and therefore are asking you to complete and return the attached questionnaire before your child starts the Forest School Programme. At the end of the sessions, we will send you a follow up questionnaire. As well as measuring the impact of the work for your own child, the data received from these questionnaires may also help us in our planning for subsequent Forest School sessions to ensure maximum benefit.

Please could you complete the questionnaire and permission slip and return them to the school office at your earliest possible convenience. Please note they must be returned by Thursday 23rd November at the latest, if it is not returned by this date your child will not be able to attend the first session. Thank you for your help with this matter and I hope your child thoroughly enjoys their Forest School experience.

Yours Faithfully

Mrs C Harvey (Headteacher)

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Sedlescombe Church of England Primary School

Forest School Permission Slip

Child's Name:	
<input type="checkbox"/> I give permission for my child to attend Forest School Sessions delivered by Forest School Leaders.	
<input type="checkbox"/> I understand that my child will need suitable clothing and footwear as outlined in the Forest School Letter.	
<input type="checkbox"/> I give permission for my child to receive medical attention from qualified school staff and/or medical staff in an emergency. (The school will usually act in loco parentis until a parent is able to attend).	
I give permission for photos taken during Forest School sessions to be used in:	
<input type="checkbox"/> The school newsletter	
<input type="checkbox"/> The school prospectus	
<input type="checkbox"/> The school website	
Medical Information:	
Dietary Requirements:	
Medical Conditions and Medication:	
Allergies:	
Emergency Contact Details:	Emergency Contact Details:
Number:	Number:
Name:	Name:
Relationship:	Relationship:
Additional Comments:	
Name of parent/carer:	
Signature of parent/carer:	
Date:	