

30th October 2023

Dear parents/carers of children in 1 Willow,

It is 1 Willow's turn to have their forest school sessions. The children loved getting outside and exploring nature last year and this will continue into Year One, where they will build upon the skills they developed during Reception sessions. Forest School is a holistic, child led approach to outdoor learning, whilst participating in an exciting and engaging range of games and activities, children will be supported with developing their self-confidence and self-esteem, social skills, physical skills, creativity, resilience and perseverance. Forest School also provides opportunities for children to see a range of Year One Science objectives in action and provides many experiences that are relevant to other areas of the wider school curriculum.

Forest School sessions will take place with the whole class participating at a time and will be led by Mrs Campbell, who will be supported by TAs and volunteers from the school community. Children will have five sessions this half term (see dates below). **On their Forest School session days, children will need to come to school dressed in clothes appropriate for participating in Forest School.** Please ensure that children have sufficient layers for spending time outside, especially on colder days. Forest school will go ahead in almost all weather conditions and it is part of the fun that children may get messy so please ensure children are wearing old clothes and that these are not school uniform. Children will need to wear:

- Long trousers
- A long sleeved top
- A jumper
- Warm socks
- hat, gloves and scarf for very cold days
- A warm raincoat or puddle suit
- **Wellies** (children should come to school in trainers and bring their wellies in a bag to change into before their Forest School session)
- waterproof trousers (if you have them)

Spare clothes, wellies and raincoats/puddle suits can now be kept at school for the 5 sessions of Forest school. Please ensure these are clearly labelled and brought to school before or on Friday the 3rd November . They will be handed back at the end of the 5 sessions.

We end our sessions with a drink of hot chocolate or squash and a biscuit, so please let your child's class teacher know if your child has any dietary requirements that mean we would need to provide an alternative.

**Forest School Sessions:**

Session 1: Friday 3rd November

Session 2: Friday 10th November

Session 3: Friday 17th November

Session 4: Friday 24th November

**1st December No session due to INSET day**

Session 5: Friday 8th December

Because Forest School offers a great outdoors and active learning experience, during this 5 week period your child will only be completing 1 PE session each week with their class teacher. Please see the table below for the days that your child should wear school uniform, PE kit or Forest school clothes.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
School Uniform	School Uniform	Indoor PE kit	School Uniform	Forest School

If you have any questions about Forest School then please contact us via the Year 1 email [year1@branfil.havering.sch.uk](mailto:year1@branfil.havering.sch.uk) and address the email to Mrs Campbell.

Last year the children had so much fun participating in Forest School so we are very pleased to be able to continue to provide this opportunity beyond Reception at Branfil.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Campbell (Year One Teacher)

Mrs Ferguson (Forest School Leader)

Mrs Robinson (Year One Year Leader)