



St John Fisher Catholic Primary School

Kale Road, Erith, Kent DA18 4BA
Telephone: 020 8310 7311 Fax: 020 8312 1017
www.sjf.bexley.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Sarah J Griffin BA (Hons) MA (Hons) NPQH

July 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Introduction to Forest School

I hope this message finds you well. We are excited to share with you our Forest School initiative at St John Fisher, which would start in September 2024. Forest School is a unique outdoor learning experience that allows children to explore, learn, and connect with nature in a safe and supportive environment.

What is Forest School?

The concept of Forest School is an educational approach that takes place in natural settings, such as woodlands or green spaces. This type of learning offers a range of opportunities where children's holistic growth can flourish through regular sessions. The program will run over a 6-week period and will support children through play, exploration and supported risk taking. This approach of learning will develop confidence and self-esteem by allowing the children to be inspired through hands-on experiences within a natural setting and it will build upon the child's creativity and resilience.

Our Forest School Site

We are fortunate to have a dedicated Forest School site on our school grounds. This is in collaboration with the Peabody Trust. It includes a wide variety of trees and bushes, 7 planters to plant a range of vegetables and fruits. We also have designated areas to investigate natural habitats, areas for tool work and campfires. Our goal is to create a vibrant outdoor space where children can learn, play, and develop a deeper appreciation for nature.

How Can You Help?

We would like to invite parents and guardians to get involved in maintaining our Forest School site. Here are some ways you can contribute:

1. **Volunteer Days:** Join us on designated volunteer days to help with site maintenance, such as clearing paths, planting native species, and maintaining the outdoor classroom.
2. **Donations:** If you have any gardening tools, seeds, or materials that could benefit our Forest School, please consider donating them.
3. **Expertise:** Do you have expertise in gardening, wildlife, or outdoor education? We'd love to tap into your knowledge!



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Next Steps

We will be organizing a parent information session about Forest School at the start of the academic year. In the meantime, if you are interested in volunteering or have any questions, please fill in the slip below and send back before the end of this academic year (Tuesday 22nd July 2024).

Thank you for supporting our Forest School initiative. Together, we can create a magical outdoor learning space for our children!

Warm regards,

Ms Keto-Edwards and Ms Baldwin

Volunteering as a Forest School Helper

I _____ (name) am willing to help out as a volunteer in the Forest School.

Please could you give a short explanation as to why you would like to help in the Forest School and/or tell us of any expertise that you may have that would be of assistance to the school's development of the forest school in the future.

Signed: _____ Dated: _____

Parent of: _____ in year _____