Our Lady Immaculate
Catholic Primary School
A Multi-Academy

Forest School

At Our Lady Immaculate catholic Primary School

Information for parents



Forest School at Our lady Immaculate catholic Primary School aims to provide a safe outdoor environment that will enable and encourage the children to explore their natural surroundings. The learning approach at Forest School is child centered and provides opportunities for them to become independent, explore, use their imagination, take appropriate risks and initiate their own learning. Forest School is a holistic approach to learning, incorporating children's individuality and develops their skills for life long learning.

We are pleased to be able to offer children of Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Primary School the opportunity to take part in our Forest School programme.

It will take place under the cedar tree in the school grounds, and they will enjoy sessions fortnightly throughout the school term.

The sessions will be held by **Mary Harpu**r, Level 2 trained Forest School Lead.

What will happen during a Forest School session?

Activities will take place in a secure and safe environment. Children will be able to explore, investigate and discover the natural world through practical activities. Some Forest School activities will be planned. This may be to enable the children to master and perfect a new skill before they are able to enjoy another activity or just because it is a fun experience. Learning and exploring in Forest School is encouraged and supported by adults and as well as other children. Child-led activities are fundamental within the Forest School ethos.

A selection of Forest School activities:

- *Story telling*
- *Mini beast hunts*
- *Mud kitchen*
- *Too use, basic whittling, sawing, knife skills*
- *Fire lighting and cooking*
- *Blind trail – trust games*
- *Hapa-Zome – leaf and flower printing*
- *Mud faces*
- *Willow weaving*

The Forest School learning environment provides opportunities for children to:

- Develop self-esteem and self-confidence
- To form positive relationships with others
- Develop a growing awareness of their emotional needs and the needs of others
- To learn to co-operate and work with their peers and adults
- To develop strategies in order to take risks within the boundaries of safety.

Clothing:

The school will provide waterproof over-trousers. Children will need to wear old clothing to school.

- Children must come to school wearing their school shoes and carry wellie boots separately in a bag

In **cold** *weather children will need*:

- A warm sweatshirt/fleece
- Long-sleeved top
- Waterproof jacket with a hood
- Woolly hat, gloves and scarf
- Wellington boots (named) and thick warm socks

In **warm** *weather children will need:*

- Full length long trousers
- Thin long-sleeved top
- Sun hat
- Wellington boots (named)
- Sun cream
- Light-weight waterproof coat

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us via the School Office