



Gooderstone Church of England Primary Academy

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Godbold

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Friday 26th May 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are very excited to be starting forest schools at our school which will give children the wonderful opportunity of learning in a woodland environment.

Mrs Cross is currently training to become a qualified Level 3 Forest School Leader and is developing a plan to enhance the current woodland area and acquire equipment to use during the forest school sessions. We intend to offer forest schools across the whole school however, while Mrs Cross is completing her training, we will initially start with Owls having short sessions in the woodland area next half term. Mrs Cross will be in touch with Owls separately regarding these sessions.

What is Forest School?

The Forest School Association states that 'Forest School is a child-centred inspirational learning process, that offers opportunities for holistic growth through regular sessions. It is a long-term program that supports play, exploration and supported risk taking. It develops confidence and self-esteem through learner inspired, hands-on experiences in a natural setting.' Children are given the freedom to explore and play at their own pace and follow their own interests. We will provide opportunities each week that children can choose to play with or they can create their own ideas. If they want to dig in the mud, build dens or take part in craft activities, it is completely their choice. We are excited to be able to offer this to the children at our school and we are lucky to have the Forest School site within our school grounds.

Development of the site and equipment

To enhance the children's experiences and opportunities, we will be purchasing some equipment such as hand drills, tarpaulins and fire lighting equipment. We are grateful that The Friends of Gooderstone have kindly agreed to put some of their fundraising money towards this and we will let you know exactly what has been bought as we buy it by both the school and The Friends.

In the spirit of reduce, reuse and recycle, we are also appealing to our school community for some items that we would be delighted to receive. Please see over leaf for a list and get in touch with the office or Mrs Cross if you are able to help in any way or have any questions.

We are excited to be able to offer this to the children at Gooderstone Primary Academy and look forward to seeing the children develop their skills and connect with our wonderful woodland area.

Best wishes,



Mrs Godbold



Forest Schools Donation Wish List

- Ropes – to make swings, bridges, tarpaulins. This can be static or dynamic.
- Tarpaulins – the more the merrier to keep us dry both over head and under foot.
- String, twine, paracord – for tying and crafting.
- Tyres – large or small but in good condition to be used for rolling, building, climbing.
- Planks – for building, making bridges and seesaws
- Wood chippings – to make designated pathways.
- Wood Fire Logs – we hope to build up a supply for when we are lighting fires and cooking.
- Tree Branches – about adult height that can be used for den building and to designate areas that we want to preserve from trampling.
- Tree Stumps/Trunks – we have already sourced some long lengths for our fire circle but would also like some shorter ones that can be used for crafting/building/climbing.
- Wooden cable reels – ideally the large ones which can be used as a craft area or mud kitchen.
- Peelers and children’s gardening gloves – if you have any spare for whittling sticks.
- Metal pots, pans, spoons, buckets, trowels etc (not plastic please).

