



William Gilbert Endowed (Church of England) Primary School & Nursery

Vicarage Lane, Duffield, Belper, Derbyshire, DE56 4EB
Telephone: 01332 840395

Website: <https://www.williamgilbertend.derbyshire.sch.uk/>

E-mail: enquiries@williamgilbertend.derbyshire.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs H Britten



Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to inform you that Year 1 will be taking part in a series of 4 Forest School sessions at the local nature reserve in Duffield. These sessions will be led by Miss Day (Level 2 Forest School Leader) and accompanied by Mrs Reed.

Nature-based learning provides a unique educational experience and process that offers children the opportunity to succeed and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences in a woodland environment.

Children will engage in motivating and achievable tasks and activities and in almost all weathers. Children will develop; both physical and social skills, grow in confidence, self-esteem and motivation whilst developing an understanding of the natural world.

These nature-based learning sessions will encourage children to:

- learn about the natural world
- work through practical problems and challenges
- learn how to manage failures
- build confidence in decision making and evaluating risk
- develop practical skills
- understand the benefits of a balanced and healthy lifestyle
- explore connections between humans, wildlife and the earth
- reflect on learning and experiences
- develop their language and communication skills
- improve physical motor skills
- improve their concentration skills

Year 1's Forest School sessions will run on Thursday mornings. The dates are listed below. **Please ensure your child arrives at school timely, so that we can check clothing, footwear and kit before a prompt departure.**

Since these sessions will be taking place in the morning, please can your child attend school in their outdoor clothes, and bring their school uniform and shoes in a separate, named bag to change into at lunchtime.

Dates:

Week 1: 26th September

Week 2: 3rd October



Week 3: 17th October
Week 4: 24th October

NB – There will be no Forest School session on Thursday 10th October due to the pre-arranged Maths Whizz open morning for Year 1 and 2.

For some sessions, we will require and welcome parental support. Please access the following link to indicate your availability in line with the dates listed above, and school will be in touch as appropriate to confirm whether your help is needed. Thank you in advance for your support.

[Parent Support Form](#) (please complete by Monday 23rd September 2024)

Your child will need the following for EVERY session:

Clothing list:

- Waterproof trousers
- Waterproof coat with a hood.
- Long sleeved top
- Full length trousers
- Jumper/fleece
- Wellies/walking boots
- Warm socks plus a spare pair
- Gloves and woolly hat in cooler weather/sun hat in sunny weather

Please note that in the woodland, it can often be cooler than expected under the shade of the trees.

* A filled water bottle and high energy snack – no nuts, chocolate or sweets please. Snacks like a banana, an apple, cheese, malt loaf, banana bread, crackers, grapes, raisins, flapjack etc. Please place this in a plastic container with their name clearly marked.

* A rucksack that they can carry on their back to contain their drink, snack, hat, gloves and extra layers. Please also remember to provide a carrier bag to put dirty boots into at the end of their session.

No child will attend without appropriate clothing, that will protect them from extremes of heat or cold, keep them covered to reduce the likelihood of cuts and scrapes, and that fits appropriately for comfort.

Children and parents/carers are encouraged to think about the usefulness of their clothing for outdoor activities, and to be aware they are likely to take some of our mud home with them after a session.

Please ensure that all clothing, footwear and rucksacks are clearly labelled, as they are only young, and there is a large quantity of kit to keep track of.

We work on the principle that **“there is no such thing as bad weather, only unsuitable clothing.”** (Alfred Wainwright). Please ensure your child is prepared for all weathers.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Mrs Z Kibble
Deputy Headteacher