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September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

## Forest School Sessions – Outdoor Education Programme

During the course of this academic year your child will be taking part in Forest School sessions as part of their weekly timetabled lessons.

These lessons will be a combination of being on the school site and spending half a day in a local wooded area separate from the school site – during this academic year this will be a Friday afternoon and alternate each week between year 9 and year 10 classes. Students will travel to and from the site in the school minibus. **Please note that if the journey is to take longer than 10 minutes, a face mask is highly recommended when travelling by minibus.** The week when the class is not at the wooded area they will follow their normal timetable to include a catch up session on the lesson missed from the previous week. This lesson will be with Mrs Abel.

We really feel that this is a fantastic opportunity for your child to be taking part in a practical course. To facilitate this we will be leaving school after period 3 at approximately 12.30 pm (this will allow students time to change from school uniform into their Forest Schools kit) and will return to school by 2.00pm – this will ensure that all students are back on site in good time to change into their school uniform to be dismissed at the end of the school day. It will not be possible to dismiss any student from anywhere other than the school site.

It is anticipated that we will be working in the wooded area throughout the year in all weathers (only in extreme weather will we not take students due to the inherent health and safety concerns). Therefore students should expect to get muddy and they should come to school with the following kit when it is their Friday to leave site:

A full change of clothes which includes trousers (not jeans), layers of clothing to keep warm in winter, wellington boots/walking boots and a full set of waterproofs (jacket and trousers).

A packed lunch and plenty to drink (in accordance with the schools healthy eating policy), as students will be out of school over lunchtime (students who receive free school meals will have a packed lunch provided by the school). Students might want to bring a warm drink in a flask.

If your child has their own wellington boots/walking boots please let me know on the attached slip, otherwise the school will do their best to provide these so that all students are fully equipped; in this case please advise of sizes required on the attached slip.



The wooded area we are using has been kindly offered to us by a local member of the public who uses it to host small outdoor events, it is therefore expected and imperative that students demonstrate the highest standards of behaviour and respect for the environment. As the course develops your child will be using tools, lighting fires and be given responsibility for working safely with others. Should members of staff have any concerns about the behaviour of a student we reserve the right to keep that student in school until further notice.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me by email at:  
[Ityrrell@mysackville.org.uk](mailto:Ityrrell@mysackville.org.uk)

I look forward to receiving your reply slip and attached parental consent form by **XXX DATE**.  
This short deadline is to enable the first forest based session to take place.  
Yours sincerely

Mr Ian Tyrrell  
**Teacher of Science**

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To: Mr Tyrrell

I give permission for my child .....  
to leave the school site for their Forest School sessions every alternate Friday.

My child has their own wellington boots/walking boots.

My child has their own waterproof jacket.

My child has their own waterproof trousers.

My child requires wellington boots/walking boots, they are a size ..... in shoes.

My child requires a waterproof jacket, they are a size .....

My child requires a pair of waterproof trousers, they are a size .....

I understand that should the school have any concerns regarding my child's behaviour they may be required to stay in school and this may affect their ability to fully engage and benefit from the Forest School experience.

Signed..... Parent/Carer Date .....