

Littletown Primary Academy

Monday 29th October 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Outdoor Classroom

We are going to begin to use the wildlife area next to the nursery, as well as other outdoor areas within our school grounds, for one session a week, as an outdoor classroom. During this session we will apply aspects of the 'forest schools approach' to provide the children with an alternative environment for their learning. 'Forest Schools' was an idea originally developed in Denmark as one approach to Early Years education. It was recognised as having a positive impact on self-esteem, confidence and the ability to work in groups. Sessions in the wildlife area will be planned alongside the Foundation Curriculum and will be included in our planning. We will be building on the children's prior experience gained in the nursery outdoor sessions.

The Reception children will be going out **every Friday** beginning this Friday 5th November.

Children should not wear school uniform on a Friday but instead please ensure they are appropriately dressed for being outdoors i.e. jeans or tracksuit bottoms (not best clothes - they will get muddy). They will need to wear shoes/trainers to school and will change into their wellies when outside.

Please could you provide the following items in a **named** bag and place on your child's peg (**please name the bag - even if it is just a carrier bag**).

- Wellington boots are essential!
- Clothes appropriate for weather - hats, gloves, warm waterproof coat etc.



We will be working outside in small groups in all weathers, except in extreme weather conditions!

Thank you for your continued support,

Miss Croft, Mrs Katene & Mrs Hawkins

Why do squirrels hide their nuts?



Into the woods we go! Why do squirrels hide their nuts? Why do hedgehogs hibernate? It's time to explore the seasonal changes in the natural world during autumn and winter.

This half term, we'll be using our **Outdoor Classroom** sessions to observe and experience the enchanting autumnal environment, collecting autumn treasures as we crunch through the piles of fallen leaves. We will sort our treasures into different categories, create art, and learn about woodland animals and hibernation. We will listen to autumnal stories and make homes for woodland creatures. We will be using our senses to notice changes in the environment and make observations. We will be counting, sorting, comparing and measuring natural resources.

Area of Learning covered in the topic	
Communication and language	Listening and attention; Understanding; Speaking
Physical development	Moving and handling
Personal, social and emotional development	Managing feelings and behaviour; Making relationships
Literacy	Reading; Writing
Mathematics	Numbers; Shape, space and measures
Understanding the world	The world
Expressive arts and design	Exploring and using media and materials; Being imaginative

Help your child prepare for their project

Woodlands are wonderful! Why not explore local woodland together to build a fairy house using twigs, leaves, nuts and berries. You could also cook some fabulous autumnal recipes such as pumpkin soup or toffee apple cakes. Alternatively set up a mud kitchen in your garden. What ingredients from the garden can you mix together to create an autumn potion.

If you are out and about and collect an abundance of conkers and pine cones we would love to use them in our classroom so please drop them in to any adult.

Thank you for your continued support.

The Reception Team