



Bentham C P School
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Bentham
Lancaster
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Forest School at Bentham CP School

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are continuing to run a Forest School within the school grounds. It is planned that all children should have a 'Forest School experience' during their time at Bentham.

The location will be the outdoor areas at the front of the school building. The Leader of Forest School is Mrs McGregor. Please read the following important information, fill in the Parent School Agreement and return it to your child's class teacher.

Information about Forest School

Forest School aims to build up children's skills, abilities and confidence week by week through practical hands-on activities in the outdoors. It gives them the chance to explore, learn and discover at their own pace in a safe and supportive space.

Forest School uses natural resources to stimulate imagination, creativity and investigation.

Activities can include:

- Woodwork using tools, e.g. making musical instruments, jewellery, decorative items
- Natural art
- Fire lighting
- Using knots and lashings
- Shelter building
- Bug hunts

There are many benefits to Forest School. For example, it can:

- Develop physical abilities and help participants to stay active and healthy.
- Heighten self-awareness and improve emotional and social skills.
- Promote co-operative and group working.
- Encourage children to take care of themselves and others.
- Foster care, appreciation and respect for wildlife and wild places.
- Broaden knowledge and understanding of the natural world.

Safety at Forest School

There is always a high adult to participant ratio at Forest School. All activities are thoroughly risk assessed before the start of each session and Leaders continue to monitor the safety of the group as activities progress. There is always a trained first aider present at each session and a written emergency plan to follow.

Who will be running the Forest School sessions?

Sessions will be overseen by Forest School leader Mrs McGregor. They will be assisted by Bentham school staff and Ms Murphy a volunteer who has been through the correct procedures for working with children.

What your child needs to wear for Forest School

The Forest School sessions will take place entirely outside in the school outdoor areas whatever the weather. We will provide a shelter from the elements, but it is still important that your child wears clothes that are waterproof and warm and that are OK to get wet and muddy.

Your child should wear:

- Waterproof coat;
- Waterproof trousers; (if they own a pair)
- Wellington boots; (or sturdy walking boots)
- Comfortable long trousers;
- Comfortable, warm long sleeved top or fleece;
- Long sleeved T-shirt;
- Thick socks if the weather's cold - thermal if possible or two pairs of thinner ones;

Dates this term

To make the most of the Forest School sessions I have decided to run the sessions with smaller groups this term your child will be in either group A or group B. This means they will access Forest School every other week. Please make sure your child has the right clothing on the right day. Below are the dates for each group and I will let you know which group your child is in.

Wednesday 8 th Sept	Group A	Forest School
Wednesday 15 th Sept	Group B	Forest School
Wednesday 22 nd Sept	Group A	Forest School
Wednesday 29 th Sept	Group B	Forest School
Wednesday 6 th Oct	Group A	Forest School
Wednesday 13 th Oct	Group B	Forest School
Wednesday 20 th Oct	Group A	Forest School

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs A McGregor
Forest School Teacher/SENCO

School Parent Agreement

The School	The Family	The child
We will aim to work in partnership with parents and carers to :-	I/we will aim to work in partnership with the school and its staff to:-	I will aim to follow the rules of the forest:-
provide high quality teaching & learning through a broad and balanced curriculum	ensure that my child will attend school regularly and on time	I will be gentle
value each child as an individual	ensure that my child is equipped appropriately for Forest School	I will be kind
understand that each child has their own learning style	let the school know about any concerns and problems which might affect my child's behaviour or progress	I will try my best
encourage each child to achieve their personal best in all areas	support my child in opportunities for learning at home	I will be honest
provide opportunities for children to learn and practice new skills	attend parent consultations and discussions about my child's progress and school life	I will listen to others
encourage collaborative learning	support the school policies and their rules for promoting good behaviour.	I will look after living things
encourage children to take risks in their own learning	respond promptly to school correspondence	
provide a high ratio of adults to children	To attend the children's celebration of Forest Learning in the Forest	
ensure all adults working with our children are fit to do so		
Signed: _____ Dated: _____	Signed: _____ Dated: _____	Signed: _____ Dated: _____



A nurturing family, learning together



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