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Dear Parent/Carer,

After the Christmas holiday, on Wednesday 10th January, the Leopards will start 5 weeks of 'Forest school' sessions. These will happen every Wednesday and will run whatever the weather, except during conditions which pose a risk to the safety of the children (e.g very high winds or thunderstorms). As it will be the middle of winter, it is essential that your child has the right clothing for the weather. In case of wet weather, please could you provide your child with waterproof clothing and wellies and for very cold weather please could you make sure your child also has extra layers of clothing (including extra pairs of socks, gloves, scarf and hat). Forest school clothing must be in school for each session as your child will be unable to take part without it.

During their forest school sessions, the children will have the opportunity to explore the natural environment through their own self-initiated activities. They will also have the opportunity to learn new skills, such as shelter building, hand tool use, fire building, species ID'ing and outdoor cooking.

The core purposes of forest school are to develop self-esteem, self-confidence and social skills in children from age three and upwards and there is a wealth of research to support its benefits in children of all ages. If you would like any more information about forest school, or would like to offer your help, please feel free to come and see me.

Thank you for your continued support,

Charlotte Morphew

