## ELMHURST Aspire. Create. Think.

Thursday 12 June 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

#### **Forest School**

We are delighted to announce that we will be running 4 Forest School sessions during the first week of the summer holidays at Elmhurst School. These sessions will run:

- Monday, 28 July from 9.30am to 11.30am
- Tuesday, 29 July from 9.30am to 11.30am
- Thursday, 31 July from 9.30am to 11.30am
- Friday, 1 August from 9.30am to 11.30am

If you choose to take up this place, then it is expected that your child will attend each of the 4 sessions. They cannot take up a place and then opt into sessions.

#### What is Forest School?

Forest school is an inspirational and fun learning experience for your child. It is a programme that offers learning and development through child-led play, exploration and risk taking in a natural setting which can help build self-confidence, self-esteem, nature connection and well-being. Forest school involves risky activities which can include use of tools, tree climbing, mud and clay play whilst encouraging creativity, imagination, team building and a sense of belonging. Every activity is subject to a risk-benefit analysis but please be aware that we cannot remove all risk and we encourage children to understand and manage their own risk in a real-world setting.

#### What are the staff ratios for Forest School?

Forest School operates on a 1:8 ratio. Miss Cawley and Mrs Baldwin will be running the sessions and are both Forest School trained, First Aid trained, and DBS checked.

#### Where will we meet the Forest School Leaders?

Our Forest School leaders (Miss Cawley and Mrs Baldwin) will meet you at the pupil entrance gate at 9:30am, the one they usually enter through in the morning when attending school.

#### What does my child need to bring?

We ask that you supply your child with a snack and a water bottle for each morning session. There will also be cooking opportunities therefore please notify school of any allergies on booking.

#### How should my child dress?

The sessions will take place outdoors in all weathers so please ensure your child brings/wears the following:





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- Children MUST wear long-sleeved trousers and long-sleeved tops to prevent their arms and legs from nettle stings and brambles.
- Children **MUST** bring waterproof trousers and a waterproof jacket. The session will take place outside even if it rains.
- A pair of wellies in case it rains **OR** trainers that you don't mind your child getting wet.
- A hat to protect from the sun and if the weather is forecast to be warm, please ensure that you have applied a layer of sun cream to your child before they arrive.

To help us to cover the cost of resources and to ensure that we can continue to provide this exciting opportunity for children in the future, we request parents/carers pay a nominal £20 contribution for the week, which can be paid on Arbor –Please click on the <u>Trip Overview</u> to sign up for Forest School.

Please follow the link to complete the permission form <u>here</u>

If you would like any further information then please don't hesitate to get in contact with Miss Cawley or Mrs Baldwin, who will be more than happy to help.

There are limited spaces therefore spaces will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Please complete and return the attached form by Friday, 11 July 2025.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Lee and Miss Needham Co-Headteachers

Please note that the school office will be closed during the Forest School sessions. If you need to contact school in an emergency please call 07394 690688





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