All Saints' C of E (VC) Primary School

Highlands Drive - Maldon - Essex - CM9 6HY

Headteacher - Mr P.J.Brown B.Ed Hons (NPQH)
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4th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers of EYFS children

Forest School for EYFS

This year all EYFS children will have the amazing opportunity to take part in Forest School. Ducklings and Cygnets alternate each half term and they have one afternoon of Forest School a week.

Ducklings: classes start on: **Thursday 10th September 2026**
Cygnets class start after half term on **Thursday 5th November 2024**

What is Forest School?
At Forest School the children get to enjoy nature and the outdoors. It also helps them to build creativity skills, show independence, learn resilience, gain confidence, make new friendships, learn how to work as a team and also have fun! It is child-led but activities available might include; den building, woodland crafts, tool use, storytelling, climbing, balancing, swinging, mud play, fire and cooking as well as exploring the wonder of nature and wildlife available to us.

When and Where will it take place?
Our Forest School area is in a dedicated corner of the school field but we can explore the whole of the school's outside space. This includes the allotment, the prayer garden and the wildlife area. Each session takes place on Thursday afternoon from registration until home time. We go outside in all weathers, rain or shine, except in extreme weather deemed unsafe by the Forest School Leader (high winds and thunderstorms).

Who runs Forest School?
My name is Kate Woodroof AKA Woody Woodpecker and I am a qualified Forest School Leader. I will be running the sessions with Miss Hiskett and Mrs Dale.

What do children need to wear/bring?
There is no such thing as bad weather, just inappropriate clothing! Please send your child in with a change of clothing as follows:

- Old comfy trousers (tracksuit bottoms are ideal, no jeans please)
- A long sleeve top and/or fleece jumper
- Waterproof coat (it can be their normal school coat but please be aware it may get dirty)
- Waterproof trousers (we do have a limited supply of extras that can be borrowed if you do not have them)
- Warm study shoes – wellington boots, snow boots, walking boots or old trainers
- Spare socks, a hat, scarf and gloves and extra layers as it gets colder
- Their usual water bottle and afternoon snack.

  Please ensure everything is labelled with a name!

We may get wet, we may get muddy! Please reassure your child that their forest school clothing is old and washable so they do not worry about getting dirty.

Again, please make sure everything is labelled and brought into school in a named bag <u>on the day of the session</u>. The children will then go home wearing their forest school clothes at the end of the day and will bring their school uniform home in their forest school bag.

Shops like Lidl sell really good and reasonably priced waterproof over-trousers, jackets and boots but if you need help providing a change of clothing/waterproof coat etc then please get in touch, we do have a limited number of spares. Also, if you have additional spare old items you would be happy to donate to school then please bring them in.

Thank you so much for your support. We really look forward to providing this opportunity to watch your children grow, develop, learn, love nature and have fun! If you have any questions please just ask.

Kind regards

Kate Woodroof

AKA Woody Woodpecker

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