



March 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are extremely excited to announce that Thorn Grove Primary School will begin providing

Forest School Education as part of our continued commitment to delivering a broad and balanced curriculum.

“Forest School is an inspirational process, that offers ALL learners regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences in a woodland or natural environment with trees.

Forest School is a specialised learning approach that sits within and compliments the wider context of outdoor and woodland education.” Forest School Association.

I am currently undertaking a level 3 Forest School qualification which enables me to set up and run Forest school sessions over a long-term basis. Initially, the children in Reception will benefit from participating in ‘Forest School’ however a 3 year plan will evolve to ensure ALL children at Thorn Grove Primary School will benefit from some outdoor educational experiences.

There is much research around the benefits of outdoor learning. Forest school is an approach which builds a child's self-esteem and emotional intelligence, by fostering resilience, confidence, independence and creativity through use of the outdoor natural environment.

As part of the Forest School ethos it is important for the children to be able to take control and responsibility for their welfare and learning. However, there is a high adult to child ratio in order to facilitate this and support children in taking part in new experiences such as den-building, using tools, or cooking on a camp-fire.

We are currently looking for adult **volunteers** who have a passion and love of the outdoors to join the ‘Forest School’ programme at Thorn Grove. We are aiming to begin the programme after Easter on a weekly basis **every Wednesday afternoon**. If you or a family member are interested in dedicating a weekly session to enjoy worthwhile rewarding experiences with groups of wonderfully behaved children then please complete the interest form attached.

For further information, do not hesitate to contact me. I will be more than happy to share my vision for Forest School at Thorn Grove and answer any queries.

We thank you for your continued support and look forward to the introduction of this exciting new approach to learning.

Kind Regards

Kass Arnold

Forest School Volunteer Application Form



What is a Forest Schools Volunteer?

Forest Schools is a unique learning experience that offers children, young people and adults regular opportunities to achieve, and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences in a natural outdoor environment.

Volunteers are required to assist with these regular sessions from 12.45-3.15pm every Wednesday afternoon. Sessions take place in the school grounds and involve activities and games focused on nature and the environment. Support will be given to all volunteers by the qualified Forest School practitioner and School staff.

What's in it for you?

- Becoming part of a friendly and dedicated team
- Satisfaction from seeing children enjoy the outdoors
- Express your creative talents
- Gaining experience of working with children and their families

What's involved?

- Helping to develop ideas for sessions for Forest School sessions.
- Helping to set up before a Forest School session.
- Helping enable children to take part in Forest Schools activities.
- Helping to clean and tidy following a Forest School session.
- Reporting any damage or incidents to the Forest School Leader
- Becoming familiar with the Forest School handbook and following its guidelines and policies for safe practise

Requirements

- A DBS check will be required for this role (school office will assist in this process)
- Volunteers should be over 18 years to apply for this role

DETAILS

NAME: _____

CONTACT NUMBER: _____

EMAIL _____

RELATED TO: CHILD'S NAME/YR GROUP (IF APPLICABLE) _____

Why would you like to volunteer with us?

I am available every Wednesday afternoon *please tick*

I am interested but would only be available on these afternoons? *please indicate below:*
