

Newsletter 1 – Monday 18th September 2023

It has been a fun and exciting first two weeks of term with all the children settling back into school routines and our new starters getting to know everyone and how things work. It has been especially exciting to see our brand-new Forest School get up and running with Burghersh class enjoying their first session this week.

In this edition of the newsletter you will find lots of photos of our first Forest School session and the dates of some important upcoming events in the Autumn term.

Forest School:



Despite very heavy showers, Year 3 and 4 made a great start to their 6-week program of Forest School this Tuesday.

Rachael, our Forest School leader, started by introducing herself, explaining the rules of the session and showing the children around. They then had time to play and explore independently, with groups of children having lots of fun in the mud kitchen, others hunting for bugs and creepy crawlies, some children picking seeds out of the head of dead

sunflowers for planting and others inventing a timed balancing game using a log and wooden planks.

It was fantastic to see their resilience, imagination and ingenuity on display and I was impressed by how unfazed they were by the weather and how keen they were to get involved and have a go.


Please remember to ensure the children have a waterproof coat with them for every session. I have included the clothing guidance again below for your information. If they can stay relatively dry and warm they will be better able to focus on the fun, imaginative play and get more from the sessions.

Burghersh will continue with Forest School until October half term, with Year 2 then taking over up until Christmas.



What should I wear to Forest School?!

Head: depending on the season; a warm hat for Winter and a sun hat for the Summer.

 In the Summer, remember suncream too!

Layers!!! it's not about the amount of layers the child has on to keep warm and dry but the type of fabrics the layers are. Cotton layers will soak up sweat and will leave the child cold. Even on cold wet days a child can get hot and sweaty under their waterproofs. Merino wool and/or polyester blend materials are durable and great for warm base layers with excellent wicking performance.



Hands: waterproof gloves are great, to keep hands warm and dry if playing with mud / water. Thin woollen gloves are a good idea for dry days to keep hands warm and allow better dexterity.



Feet: a good pair of waterproof walking boots are better than wellington boots; they are warmer, better ventilated and they fit better, for climbing, manoeuvring and running. If wellington boots are the only option, multiple pairs of socks should be worn in the winter to keep little feet warm! In the warmer months, it is still important for children to wear full shoes for protection.

Long sleeved top – best to wear in Summer and Winter, to keep warm, and protect from scratches, bites, sunburn and ticks.



Waterproof top and trousers or all in one suit is an essential part of FS kit to keep children dry and warm to allow them to stay out for the session duration and concentrate on their activities. In warmer months, this layer may not be practical.

Long trousers for Summer and Winter, to keep warm and to protect from scratches, bites, sunburn and ticks. In the Winter, a base layer leggings underneath will add warmth



Note: all Forest School clothes should be clothes that parents and guardians do not mind getting dirty.



Donation of new books from 'Good to Read':

Thanks to the hard work of Stephanie Pereira of FOES, the school recently received two large boxes of books from a charity called 'Good to Read' who donate brand new books to schools and hospitals. The children had a fun time in our Monday assembly discovering what was inside. Our new collection includes a range of fiction books for all ages, biographies, graphic novels and a fascinating-looking selection of non-fiction titles. Our newly elected school councillors will be deciding how the books should be organised and allocated at their first meeting next week.

Autumn term events:

On **Tuesday October 10th** we will be holding our annual **harvest festival** in the church at 9.15am. All parents and carers are invited to join us for the service. We will, once again, be collecting canned and dried goods for Wallingford Food Bank, which can be brought into school from Thursday 5th October.

On **Tuesday 17th October at 9.30am** and **Wednesday 19th October at 5.30pm**, we will be holding two **open events for parents looking for a reception place for September 2024**. Further details about how to sign up for one of these events will be shared soon.

Week commencing **13th November** will be our first round of **parent-teacher meetings** at which you can find out more about your child/children's progress and work, see the classrooms and look in their books. Further information about the exact timing of each classes' meetings, and how to book a slot, will be sent out nearer the time.

Our **Christingle** service will take place on **Tuesday 19th December at 4pm** in the church. As in previous years, we ask that the children stay in school until the start of the service and parents gather in the church from 3.45pm. Children will then be collected from the playground at the end of the service. Further information will be shared nearer the time.

School council

This week the children will be voting for their classes' school councillors. School council will meet once every half-term and their responsibilities will include gathering ideas and suggestions from their classes to share with me and the governors and the opportunity to make some decisions about the school. We will announce the results of each classes' election in assembly on Friday.



Dates for the diary:

Further dates will be added as events are arranged and/or confirmed. *Click here to see the school's online calendar:* <https://ewelmeprimaryschool.com/calendar/>

Saturday 16th September – Cross Country at Grey's Court, 9am start

Monday 25th September – School council meeting

Saturday 7th October – Winter Series Cross Country race 1, Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge School, 10am start

Tuesday 10th October – 9.15am: Harvest Festival in church, all parents/carers invited

Tuesday 17th October – Last Forest School session for Y3/4

Tuesday 17th October – 9.30am: Open Morning for parents/carers looking for a reception place in September 2024

Wednesday 19th October – 5.30pm: Open Evening for parents/carers looking for a reception place in September '24

Thursday 19th October – End of term 1 for children, 3.15pm

Friday 20th October – INSET day

Monday 23rd October-Friday 27th October – Half term

Monday 30th October – Start of term 2, 8.45am

Tuesday 31st October - Individual photos

Saturday 4th November – Winter series Cross Country race 2 at MECE, 10am start

Tuesday 7th November – First Forest School session for Y2

w/c Monday 13th October – Parent-Teacher meetings: details to follow

Thursday 16th November – Flu immunisations

Friday 17th November – Children in Need

Saturday 2nd December - Winter series Cross Country race 3 at MECE, 10am start

Thursday 7th December – Christmas Jumper Day

Thursday 7th December – last swimming session for Y5/6

Tuesday 12th December – Final Forest School session for Y2

Thursday 14th December – Pantomime at Oxford Playhouse

Tuesday 19th December – 4pm: Christingle service in church, all parent/carers invited

Wednesday 20th December – Last day of term 2 for all, 12.15pm

Thursday 21st December – Monday 8th January – Christmas holiday

Monday 8th January – INSET day

Tuesday 9th December – Start of term 3 for children, 8.45am

Please visit the school website to view full term dates for 2023/24: <https://ewelmeprimaryschool.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Ewelme-Primary-School-term-dates-2023-24.pdf>