

**WOODLAND SCHOOL
PARENT
INFORMATION PACK**

What is Woodland School?

Woodland schools first began in Denmark. In 1993, three nursery teachers visited a Woodland School in Denmark and fell in love with the approach to teaching. Woodland Schools are about:

- ◆ Child led learning in a controlled way.
- ◆ Being outside your 'comfort zone'.
- ◆ Small achievable tasks.
- ◆ Appreciating nature.
- ◆ Getting muddy!

Why Woodland School?

- ◆ The main aim of Woodland Schools is to increase confidence and self-esteem and the children will develop a progression of skills and knowledge.
- ◆ This is all achieved holistically through playing. Both adults and children need to play as it is a fundamental part of development; socially, biologically and emotionally.
- ◆ Play is freely chosen and intrinsically motivated. Through task design, children can play independently whilst overcoming simple and achievable goals.
- ◆ Children are able to take calculated risks in a controlled environment.

The Future

- ◆ Every class will experience a Woodland School day each half term.

Safety and Behaviour

- ◆ Thorough risk assessments have been completed for all aspects of Woodland School.
- ◆ Appropriate clothing must be worn.
- ◆ Please carefully read the information on ticks provided in this pack.
- ◆ Moss Lane's behaviour policy remains the same.
- ◆ Missing a Woodland School session will not be used as a consequence for bad behaviour.

Volunteers

- ◆ Calling all parents, carers, grandparents, aunts and uncles!
Additional helpers are welcome. Please let your child's class teacher know if you or a family member are able to help on any of the Woodland School Days.
Please note, it would not be suitable for younger siblings to attend.



Inclusion

- ◆ Every child WILL succeed in a Woodland School session.
- ◆ There is no success criteria.
- ◆ There is freedom of choice.
- ◆ Collaborations.
- ◆ Practical skills.
- ◆ Leadership skills.

Case Study Evidence

Evidence of the benefits of Woodland Schools for 3-17 year olds have shown the same benefits in:

- ◆ Increased confidence in all areas.
- ◆ Intrinsically motivated.
- ◆ Improved social skills.
- ◆ Bravery.
- ◆ Attendance.
- ◆ Health both physical and mental.
- ◆ Appreciation of the outdoor environment.



Drop off and collection location

Please only use the public car park on Webb Road for drop off and collection. Parents are not permitted to use the Witley Centre carpark. You will need to walk through the woods to the Witley Common centre (8 minute walk) Please sign your child in at drop off and out on collection. Please note; parents are expected to transport their child to and from the Woodland School, where possible parents should car share. If you are unable to arrange transport for your child please talk to your child's class teacher.

Please be aware that if your child usually attends a before or after school club you may need to make alternative arrangements on this day.

Woodland School Timings

To enable parents to drop off and collect siblings from Moss Lane and other school the timings for Woodland School are staggered as follows:

Drop Off: 9am to 9.15am

Collection : 3.00pm—3.15pm

Park on Webb Road
at **P**

The walk through the
woods to the Witley
Centre at **A**

The post code for the Witley
Centre / Webb Road car park
is GU8 5QA.



Lunch

- All children will be provided with a school packed lunch—you can choose your sandwich filling on the Innovate website.
- You **MUST** provide a filled, named water bottle.
- You may provide an additional healthy snack in a named bag.
- **NO NUTS OR SWEETS ALLOWED.**



Woodland School Clothing

To allow pupils to participate fully the correct clothing is essential and needs to be appropriate for all weather conditions such as:

- Wellingtons, sturdy walking boots or trainers
- Long trousers and long sleeved top
- Jumper or sweatshirt
- Waterproof coat and trousers
- Hat, gloves and thick socks in autumn/winter months
- Sun hat and sun cream in summer

NO SHORTS PLEASE

Some example clothing



An all in one rain suit would be useful.



UK & Ireland – ticks can be active all year round in long grass, bracken, heather, woodland and hedgerows, especially where deer and livestock are present



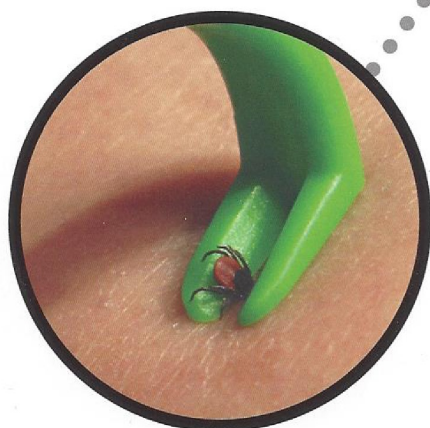
BE TICK AWARE

Ticks can carry organisms which may cause physical and neurological illness in humans and animals



Prevention

- > Wear gaiters or long trousers tucked into socks
- > Use insect repellent
- > Check yourself for ticks regularly



Removing ticks

- > Wear surgical gloves
- > Use a tick-removal tool or fine-nosed tweezers
- > Disinfect the tick bite
- > Wash your hands afterwards
- > Make a note of the date and place of the bite
- > Contact your GP if you notice signs of a rash or flu-like symptoms

What NOT to use when removing ticks

- > Creams/petroleum jelly/oils/spirits/freezing agent/powders or other substances
- > Cigarettes/matches/lighter
- > Your fingers or teeth
- > Anything that squeezes the body of the tick

(All these methods may cause regurgitation / back-flow of infective fluids)

