

Horringer Forest School



Dear Parent/Carer of _____

We are very excited to be offering the children of Horringer Pre-School the opportunity to take part in Forest Schools. We have attached an information leaflet, explaining what Forest School is and how we are introducing the programme into our Pre-School. Our Forest School programme is offered to small groups of eight children to create opportunities for children to develop their personal, social and emotional skills; through taking risks, making choices and initiating hands on learning experiences; enabling them to create long term memories, to become successful learners and **grow as unique individuals**.

Your child has been selected to take part in a programme of five Forest School sessions, during the second half of the Spring Term. The sessions will be on Tuesday mornings in the Pre-School Copse, with our Forest School Leader Rebecca Dodman, Mel Hyde and Michelle Hempsted. The sessions will be on: Tuesday 25th February, Tuesday 3rd March, Tuesday 10th March, Tuesday 24th March, Tuesday 31st March (no Session on 17th March).

Each Forest School session encompasses the child-centred, learner-led approach that is responsive to the needs and interests of the individuals. Role play and child-initiated activities are an integral part of the Forest School process. We have also planned structured activities which include; collecting items from the woodland to make crafts, creating dens/shelters and whittling carrots/sticks with vegetable peelers. Observations and reflective practice feature in each session to ensure achievements are celebrated and next steps are identified. Planned activities and learning experiences are tailored to the needs and development of each unique individual. The Forest School programme is designed to build on their emotional intelligence: to inspire motivation and confidence to take risks and ownership of their learning and build positive attitudes and relationships with others and the natural world in which they grow.

An integral part of the Forest School experience is that the children will be outside learning in a variety of different weather elements (unless conditions deteriorate to a point where they become hazardous such as thunderstorms or very high winds). Children will therefore be required to dress appropriately for the conditions and the time of year. Our Forest School information leaflet will provide you with a detailed kit list. Your child must have the full kit in Pre-School for each session to enable them to participate.

Safeguarding children and Health and safety are paramount at Horringer Pre-School and during our Forest School sessions. Staff will protect and support children to be safe and prevent them from harm in our safe woodland environment. We have our own Forest School Handbook containing risk benefit assessments and policies for all activities, which you are welcome to read at any time. If you wish to discuss the programme further, please feel free to contact Rebecca Dodman, our Level 3 Forest School Leader and Committee Chairperson, who will happily answer any questions you may have.

If you would like your child to take part in the Forest School Programme during the 2nd half of the Spring Term, please complete the attached consent form and return it to Pre-School before 13th February. If you have any further questions about Forest School please ask, will be happy to help you.

Kind Regards,

Rebecca Dodman.
Forest School Leader

Permission and consent letter



I give permission for my child _____ to participate in the Forest School programme at Horringer Pre-School during the 2nd half of the Spring Term on Tuesday 25th February, Tuesday 3rd March, Tuesday 10th March, Tuesday 24th March, Tuesday 31st March (no Session on 17th March).

I will provide the 'winter' kit required to meet my child's needs (listed in the information leaflet) and I will ensure it is in Pre-School for the Forest School sessions listed above.

Data Protection and Confidentially

All information provided is covered by the Data Protection Act and is strictly confidential.

I fully understand and agree to the following information being held by Horringer Forest School.

Signature of Parent/Carer

Print Name

Date

Activity Consent					
At Horringer Forest School your child will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities, which may include those detailed below. Please put a tick next to all those that you are happy for your child to do.					
shelter/den building		woodland games		whittling	
balancing on ropes/planks		collecting natural items		mud sculpting	
Using tools (vegetable peelers and mallets)		wild art and crafts		tree climbing (to head height)	
		Cooking on an open fire			
Please sign below to give consent for your child to participate in these activities:					
Signed:					

Photo Consent	
At Horringer Forest School Photographs may be taken for observational, assessment and marketing purposes; to be used in school or on our website/private Facebook page. Children will not be identified by name in the photos, unless direct communication is made with the child's parents/carers. A collection of Forest School photos may also be displayed in Pre-School or in a scrap book for children/visitors to see.	
Please sign below to indicate that you are happy for photos of your child to be taken/used in this way:	
Signed:	

Medical Information	
Does your child have asthma, allergies (including food allergies) or other medical conditions that we might need to know about? If 'yes' please provide further details.	
Please provide details of any medication that your child is currently taking (please ask for a 'consent to administer medication form' if you need staff to administer medication).	
Please sign below to give your consent for a member of staff (with outdoor first aid certification) to administer first aid to your child if required:	
Signed:	