



Toton  
**Bispham Drive**  
Junior School  
*Ad esse optimum*

**January 7th 2022**

**Welcome back to all of our pupils and their families,**

**As we have only had 3 days of school I am not writing a full bulletin but want to give you some key information.**

**Firstly, I am pleased that at the present time we have not had to return with any safety measures in place. I am aware of some Nottinghamshire schools who have returned with bubbles and staggered start and finish times but hope that our ability to ventilate and the measures I outlined in the Weduc message earlier this week will enable us to carry on much as normal. The situation must remain under review and should there be a risk in terms of pupil or staff illness then we may need to change.**

**Uniform as the weather is set to improve next week children will be expected to wear normal school uniform as outlined in the information on the website.**

**Forest School will return next week with groups as follows:**

**Group 1 w/c January 10th, 24th January, 7th February**

**Group 2 w/c 17th January, 31st January**

**By Easter all children will have had equal time in Forest School. Please note that children should be dressed adequately for the weather conditions and bring a change of clothes with them on Forest School days. Any child not doing so may be unable to take part.**

**Now a review from Miss Carr:**

**Autumn term 2021**

**We had a very busy Autumn term in Forest School, despite a little disruption from my absence and also with the weather!**

**The year 3 children had their introductory sessions where we went through the perimeter, rules and boundaries and then the children had plenty of time to explore and free play, whilst having a go at creating some transient art with natural objects they could find. As we were in Base 1 for our first session, during the end of the session we spent some time in the pond area so the children were ready to incorporate this area into their future sessions. For the rest of the term we explored Base 1 and 2 further, there was much excitement for Base 2 as this has many trees for exploring our climbing skills! As the sessions progressed the children explored various games, we did a litter pick to interlink with the saving the planet project in class, there was lots of role play and being creative with wool and natural objects. Some children enjoyed creating animals with sticks and wool. In their last session before Christmas we**

introduced our first tool, the hammer. The children had the chance to use nails and create a shape on some wood by hammering them in, then wrapped wool around the nails.

For the rest of the school this is their second year having Forest School at Bispham. We discussed this in our share circle and I spoke to the children of the expectation In Forest School now that we have lesser restrictions. In light of this and because the groups were also different to last year, the children's first sessions were mainly free play, to settle back into Forest School. They were set the challenge to get to know a new forest friend they haven't worked with at Forest School before and find out some of things they enjoy or were unsure of.

Over the next few sessions we revisited quick release knots for swings and ladders, the rules for tools and the boundaries. Lots of children have been very keen to learn to create zip lines after a couple of successful attempts last year. Some of them can now build their own zip line with very little or no support from me. Some children have been challenging themselves further this year in their tool skills and climbing skills, going a little higher in the trees.

For each session the children have been set a challenge or a game at the start. These whole group experiences are proving to be building our Forest School community feelings, teamwork and confidence. Some children last year were unwilling to join in with some games, but I have noticed last term that all children tend to join in happily once the rules are understood and agreed upon.

We have explored some new games in our Forest School sessions during this time, a new favourite seems to have been double tag. This involves two children working together to tag the rest of the group, then the rest of the group working together to free the tagged. Some of the groups had many discussions about the different rules and we had conversations before each round to agree on any new ones. This was a brilliant game for warming us up on colder days and supported the children in developing their teamwork and strategy skills.

Some of the other games we have played have been supporting our listening and hearing skills and learning how they are different.

Other things some children explored last term include, a fungus hunt, creative role play, den building and shelter skills, habitats and supporting animals, sounds and feelings of the forest and searching for frogs.

Overall the children enjoy exploring and testing their abilities, setting themselves new challenges, building their teamwork skills and recognizing each other's strengths. They are beginning to show growth in friendship, learning to mediate their own disagreements and acknowledging when they need to further develop a skill a peer may already have without becoming upset and instead asking each other for help and supporting each other.

Overall a brilliant first term, despite a few high wind days which meant indoor Forest School!

We have a busy spring term planned, so look out for posts on Twitter to see what we get up to.

One of our first activities this term will be bird spotting. This is because it's nearly time for the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch and we will be having a mini bird watch at school during some of our Forest School sessions to try and establish a bird count for our Forest School environment.

To take part in the Bird watch at home with your family all it requires is only 1 hour of your time between the 28th and 30th of January, and all you need to do is count and note the birds you spot in your garden or your local park, then send off the information. This can be done via post or online.

The link, with all the information you need if you wish to sign up, is below. It is free to take part and helps the RSPB greatly.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/everything-you-need-to-know-about-big-garden-birdwatch/>

**One last thing, Can you help?**

One thing the children really want to explore and develop further is den building. I have specific and limited resources in this area and though we are learning the different ways to create shelters, some children wish to explore their creativity with this. So, I am wondering if anybody has any old blankets, sheets, pegs, towels materials, tent pegs, tyres, drain pipes etc to support in building natural dens. I am trying to collect a large pile of sticks and branches of varying length.

If you have any of the above and wouldn't mind donating them to our Forest School resources please do let us know. If you are unsure if we will use what you may have at forest school please do ask.

**Many Thanks**

**Miss Carr**

**Great adventures at Forest School then and I look forward to seeing what the coming weeks bring.**

**The full bulletin will be back next week, meanwhile enjoy your weekend.**

**Best wishes,**

**Andrea Goetzee**

**Headteacher**