



HEATHCOAT PRIMARY SCHOOL

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HPS: Helping People Succeed

Interim Headteacher: Carly Wilkins

Friday 25th September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

At Heathcoat Primary School, outdoor learning remains an important part of our curriculum and all children will continue to access regular opportunities to learn and explore outdoors with their class. In the past, these whole-class outdoor learning sessions have often been referred to as "Forest School".

As we continue to develop our provision, we will now use the term '**outdoor learning**' for curriculum-based sessions delivered to whole classes.

In addition, we are introducing targeted Forest School intervention sessions for some pupils. These smaller-group programmes will be carefully planned to support specific social, emotional, wellbeing or developmental needs through a structured Forest School approach for a set period of time.

This distinction helps us to ensure that all children benefit from high-quality outdoor learning, while targeted Forest School interventions provide additional support for pupils who may benefit from it.

We are delighted to inform you that Outdoor Learning sessions are commencing for Year 6 on **Thursday 1st October**. We have 4 consecutive lessons planned for each class throughout the school, which include activities which are designed to develop Communication and Language skills, Personal and Social skills and to develop children's confidence and self-esteem. They will also link to another curriculum areas such as Science, Art and PSHE.

During some sessions a fire will be lit, and children may make some food or snacks during the sessions to be cooked on the fire. All dietary requirements will be catered for.

Maple class will have their sessions on the 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd October.

The sessions will be run by Mrs Hempstead who has completed her Forest School training and is really looking forward to running these sessions with our children.

Your child will need to come to school wearing their clothes for Forest School on the days they have their Outdoor Learning sessions. Please can they wear old clothes that you don't mind getting dirty or ripped. The children will also need to bring in wellington boots/walking boots and a waterproof coat (not their best/ school coat). We have a few pairs of wellington boots if you need to borrow a pair, but these are limited.

This is such an exciting opportunity for your child to learn new skills and develop their confidence. If you have any questions regarding this, please ask your child's class teacher. We have included a social story that you might wish to share with them. We will also discuss this with them at school.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C Wilkins
Interim Headteacher