HEATHCOAT PRIMARY SCHOOL

Broad Lane
Tiverton
Devon EX16 5HE

Tel: 01884 252445
Email: admin@heathcoat.devon.sch.uk www.heathcoat.devon.sch.uk

Interim Headteacher: Carly Wilkins

HPS: Helping People Succeed

Friday 23rd October 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 4 and 5 Hawthorn on Wednesday the 4th of November.**

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.

Hawthorn class will have their sessions on the 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th November 2026
Holly class will have their sessions on the 2nd, 9th 16th December 26 and the 13th January 27
Hazel class will have their sessions on the 20th and 27th January, 3rd, 10th February 27

We will send out a reminder class dojo one-week before you session is due to start.

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.

All Personal Data is collected and processed in accordance with GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018. Full details can be found for all the Personal Data and Special Category Data we collect and process, in our Data Protection Policy and our Privacy Notices which can be found on our website www.heathcoat.devon.sch.uk

Devon County Council

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