



Barley and Barkway C of E VA

First Schools Federation

The Big Newsells Adventure

Dear Parents,

8th September 2017

Forest School Approach

We are at the beginning of the year and the beginning of an exciting new project at the Newsells wildlife area. Taking a 'forest schools' approach, we are going to teach all the children from Year 1 to Year 4 at the Newsells wildlife area every Thursday morning. We believe that there are many advantages to this approach to learning whereby children engage in outdoor learning in which the curriculum is taught in an exciting and imaginative way. It is not just the science part of the curriculum that features here but the whole curriculum, explored in ways that are unique because we are outside. Children enjoy this approach immensely and research reveals that children and young people are stimulated by the outdoors and typically experience, over time, an increase in their self-belief, confidence, learning capacity, enthusiasm, communication and problem-solving skills and emotional well-being as well as a greater understanding of environmental issues. Importantly, for our new Federation, this also presents us with an opportunity to bring children together and work in larger groups, meeting up with siblings and others from their age group.

Partnership with the Scout Group

We are entering into a partnership with the Scout Group in Barley. The Scouts will maintain the area for our use and in return, they will have access to it for some of their activities. Julian Dollar, the Manager of Newsells is delighted that we are finally able to make regular use of the area for the children's benefit. We shall also be using the Newsells donated Classroom Bus as a classroom at the area for small groups of children throughout the morning.

What does this mean for my child and how is it going to work?

We intend to begin our adventure next Thursday 14th September.

We would like children to be dropped off at Barkway School each Thursday between 8.40 and 8.55. There will be a member of staff ready to meet your children as you arrive

by the school. If as a Barley parent a Barkway drop off is not possible for any reason, then the Classroom Bus will be available to bring your child/children over to the school. Once in school there will be some warm up activities and a safety briefing. All children need to have wellies with them on Newsells days please and a coat if the weather is cold and/or wet. We shall be providing everyone with waterproof trousers/dungarees which will be kept at school. The day will begin with a walk from Barkway School to the area at 9.00 and we shall clock the distances walked over the year as part of our physical fitness.

At the area, the bus will be present as a working classroom. There will be a new chemical toilet with a tent for privacy, plenty of water and an event shelter with sides to protect from bright sunshine and rain. It goes without saying that we shall have first aid on hand, snacks for the children and hot chocolate in the winter...

At 11.15 there will be Collective Worship and then the Barley Robin class will return to Barley School for lunch. The Barkley and Squirrel classes will return to Barkway for lunch and afternoon work.

I thought a summary of important points might be useful for you below:

Adults involved	Mrs J West – Y1/2 Barkway teacher (Outdoor Learning Lead for the Federation) Mrs E Wallace –Y1/2 Barley teacher Mr R Davies – Y3/4 teacher Mrs M Corrance, Mrs D Stone, Ms K Bradley and Miss Foster, Teaching Assistants and Mr M. Coomes, Parent Helper	
What time to arrive	Barkway School 8.40 – 8.55	
What to wear	Old trousers and wellies - we will provide waterproof ones for wet days. Skirt or uniform trousers for the afternoon slipped into book bag with school shoes.	

You will notice that this project involves Years 1 to 4. We intend to take the EYFS groups to the Newsells wildlife area too so that they can begin to enjoy the area but not with such regularity and not as soon as next week.

We are very excited about the project and will begin to share the news with the children early next week. We will keep you informed about the project through our newsletter.

Yours sincerely,

Sharon R Brown

Federation Headteacher

Permission consent will be needed and will be on School Comms.

I give permission for my son/daughter to go Newsells

I do/do not give permission for my son/daughter to have antihistamine cream applied if they are stung by nettles...