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Business Manager:
Chair of Governors:

Dave Shaw
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Richard Joel

Tel: 0114 2692301

www.athelstanprimaryschool.co.uk

Email: enquiries@athelstan.sheffield.sch.uk

10th September 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Forest School - Y1

We are very excited to inform you that we will be taking part in weekly Forest School sessions in the afternoon. The activities will be led by your child's class teacher and teaching assistant.

What is Forest Schools?

Forest Schools is a fun, exciting way to learn in an outdoor setting, such as woodlands. It is proven to improve children's confidence, self-esteem, and communication skills, as well as them having lots of fun! They also develop skills in team work, using tools safely and learning about looking after our outdoor spaces. The children will take part in a range of activities including den-building, digging, planting seeds, observing nature, fires, using tools and much more.

Where will the Forest School activities happen?

The sessions will take place in the enclosed site, at the front of the school.

Home time

When it is your child's Forest School day, you will collect them from the "The Shack" in the car park. Collecting from there allows for more time at Forest School. Please be aware that the children will likely have been playing in mud, water etc, meaning they could be a little messy when you collect them at home time.

When will Forest Schools happen?

Forest Schools will happen every week on the following days throughout Autumn 1, starting the week beginning 15th September 2025:

Coral– Wednesday

Ochre– Thursday

Violet- Friday

Forest School sessions will run every week on your allocated day until the end of Autumn 1. On your child's allocated day, please leave your book bags at home

What will my child need?

Forest Schools will happen in all weathers (unless it is VERY windy, icy or thunderstorms), so please make sure your child has plenty of warm clothes including a jumper, gloves and a hat and a coat. The children will get dirty and possibly get wet so please don't send them in 'good' clothes. Please send your child to school in the appropriate clothing on their Forest School day.

On reflection from previous years running sessions in Y1. We have decided to request that parents provide waterproof clothes and wellies for your child. Previously the clothing provided by school has proven too small for a lot of Y1 children. Cleaning the clothing has also proven



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Danielle Clough
Accredited to
Level 3
Practitioner Award
www.forestschools.com





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to be difficult and resulted in a broken washing machine. I hope you understand. Please speak to a member of the team if you need to borrow any items from school.

Donations

We would greatly appreciate any donations of- wellies, waterproof clothing, hats, scarves, gloves, sun hats that are all in good condition. We are also always looking for wooden pallets, large wooden spools, logs, tarpaulin and other outdoor items. If you have any questions please feel free to email Miss Clough on dclough@athelstan.sheffield.sch.uk. Thank you in advance for your support.

Volunteers

During our Forest School sessions, we would love to offer the opportunity for you to join us. Just like the children, we ask that you wear suitable clothing for the weather as we will be getting messy too! We will have a signup sheet in your child's classroom, please speak to your class teacher for further information. Or you can email your class teacher at

Violet- dclough@athelstan.sheffield.sch.uk

Ochre- cstewart@athelstan.sheffield.sch.uk

Coral- scattell@athelstan.sheffield.sch.uk

Yours sincerely
Y1 Team



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