



The Academy of Woodlands
Woodlands Road, Gillingham
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Tel: 01634 336688

www.theacademyofwoodlands.co.uk

Head of School: Mrs C Brown
Executive Headteacher: Mrs E Poad

Dear Parents/Guardians,

What a fantastic term one we've had at forest school so far and term two is well under way! I hope your children have enjoyed their exploration of nature as much as we have with them, and maybe even brought home one of their crafts.

Winter has quickly arrived with us and the temperatures has dropped fast, this means we need to make sure our pupils are dressed for the weather here at forest school. Here at The Academy of Woodlands we access forest school during all seasons now, and for our winter season our children will need to wear/ bring the following into school for these sessions.

Required clothing for winter months;

- **Wellie/hiking boots** – all children will need to wear wellies during their forest school sessions; our forest school area is mud based and requires a large amount of grip on your shoes to avoid slips and falls. Wellies are available to borrow at the start of sessions if children need them.
- **Coat** – during our autumn, winter and spring months children will need to bring a coat to school on their enrichment days. It is important they are kept warm and dry for the rest of their day. Please check the weather durability of your child's coat, water resistant coats will eventually soak through and your child's coat will remain wet for the rest of the day which we do not want.
- **Waterproofs** – if you are able to provide a waterproof set then please do, however if you aren't able to, old clothes you don't mind getting muddy or wet is fine and some dry clothes to change into after. Waterproofs without a fleece lining will require an extra layer underneath to keep your child warm.
- **Layers** – Children need several layers to keep them warm while in forest school for example; **t-shirt, jumper, fleece & coat/waterproofs**, we can spend up to 2hrs in forest school so layers are vital for keeping our children warm.
- **Hat & Gloves** – this will help keep children warm while they may be sitting still carrying out a craft activity, or moving equipment around, the wind can be very bitter on little hands.

What if I don't have wellies or waterproofs?

We have a large stock of wellies within our forest school site, which children can borrow at the start of sessions. These wellies are sprayed after each use with antibacterial spray and children **must wear socks** to borrow wellies. We also have a small supply of waterproof coats & trousers available for those children who may have forgot their coats that day.

What not to wear?

Children should not be attending forest school **wearing leggings or flared trousers**, these will soak easily and children will become cold very quickly. Tracksuit bottoms are necessary in winter for all students to give a better barrier against the weather.

If you need any support regarding this information, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. On your child's enrichment day, the forest school lead will be within your child's year group to ask any questions on the morning of sessions.

If you have any old wellington boots or waterproofs that your child no longer fits and you would be happy to donate, please pass these on to your child's class teacher and our forest school lead will make great use of them.

We hope your child is already enjoying these enriching experiences! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to discuss with your child's class teacher.

Yours sincerely



*Mrs Brown
Head of School
The Academy of Woodlands*



*Miss Hall-Lindop
Forest school lead*

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