

## **Information for Parents**

### **Welcome to Street Country Forest School!**

Forest School takes place in Acorn Wood, which is less than 5 minutes walk from Bersted Park Community Centre. The wood is privately owned, securely fenced and Street Country have sole use of it for outdoor learning. We also have use of the toilet facilities in the sports spectator building adjacent to the gate.

It is led by Ruth Street who is a primary trained teacher, experienced environmental educator and qualified Level 3 Forest School Leader. All staff and volunteers have a DBS certificate.

Once you are familiar with where the gate to the wood is, you are welcome to drop off and pick up your child at the gate rather than the Community Centre.

The group is run using the Forest School ethos which is explained in the accompanying leaflet. There have been many reports about how children benefit from playing outside and connecting with nature. We aim to introduce them to the wonders of the natural world and encourage them to look after it.

Please could you make sure that your child comes with warm clothing, a waterproof coat and suitable footwear such as wellies, so that they can enjoy it to the full. In summer, please consider providing a sun hat and sunscreen.

We allow children to use tools, but every activity is assessed for risk and children are instructed in how to use them safely. They are encouraged to think about their own safety and that of those around them.

Places are booked for half a term at a time and fees are due even if your child is absent. If you are unable to pay for a half a term in one go, please speak to Ruth. During the summer holidays, you can book for individual sessions.

If your child has a particular interest appropriate to Forest School that we could encourage, please speak to us. If you have any concerns about your child or would like to pass on any information that you think we should know, please do not hesitate to speak to Ruth.

The group will go ahead in all but the most extreme weather. We can put a tarpaulin up for shelter but if the weather is very windy or there are thunderstorms forecast and we consider it too dangerous, we will cancel it and notify you. We will refund you the cost of any cancelled sessions.

Please be tick aware. As far as I know we don't have a particular problem with ticks in the wood, but they are on the increase across the south of England. If you find a small insect embedded in your child's skin, please follow the advice on the tick information sheet on the website. It should only be removed with tick tweezers and it is advisable to get it checked by a doctor.

Street Country also offers activities in the school holidays, birthday parties and activities for adults such as woodland craft. If you would like more information, please speak to Ruth or look on the website [www.street-country.com](http://www.street-country.com)