



Friday 5th September 2025

Dear Parents & Carers,

FOREST SCHOOL: AUTUMN 2025

What is Forest School?

At Castle we believe that Forest School is not just a pleasant 'added extra' to what we do. Rather, it forms a vital element of our curriculum offer, enriching cross-curricular learning at the same time. It also offers opportunities for whole-child development beyond traditional academia: supporting play, exploration and supported risk-taking, while developing confidence and self-esteem through hands-on experiences in a natural setting.

Who will be working with them?

Mr Morton and Mr Penn will continue to lead Forest School sessions across the school, joined this year by Mrs Seaby. We may also be joined by further adults when we are heading out on an off-site visit, or when on-site activities require higher supervision ratios.

When will my child have Forest School?

Children from Year 1 upwards will have a Forest School session every other week, spending the afternoon outside, engaging with nature and enjoying the environment at school and in our wider locality. Our youngest children in Drogo Class will begin to have sessions later in the year, once they have settled into school. The dates for Term 1 are below:

Tintagel (Y6)	Mr Morton	11 th Sept; 25 th Sept (Pinkery); 9 th Oct; 13 th Nov; 27 th Nov; 11 th Dec
Dunster (Y4/5)	Mr Penn	9 th Sept; 23 rd Sept; 7 th Oct; 21 st Oct; 11 th Nov; 25 th Nov; 9 th Dec
Totnes (Y3/4)	Mr Morton	18 th Sept; 2 nd Oct; 16 th Oct; 6 th Nov; 20 th Nov; 4 th Dec; 18 th Dec
Corfe (Y1/2)	Mrs Seaby	11 th Sept; 25 th Sept; 9 th Oct; 22 nd Oct; 13 th Nov; 27 th Nov; 11 th Dec

What will they need?

Please do take note of the above dates so that your child comes to school fully prepared for Forest School - they do not need to wear uniform. As such, they should wear:

- **Comfortable clothing**, which won't hurt if it gets wet or dirty – it's not a fashion show!
- **Indoor shoes** for the morning, when regular learning takes place inside.

Please turn over...

Your child should also bring the following (preferably named) items in a bag for when learning heads outside. Remember to ensure your child has appropriate attire, bearing in mind the weather, temperature, and potential for muddiness!

- **Wellies** or **walking boots** are always an essential item, with plenty of room for extra socks.
- A **waterproof coat** is a must, and **waterproof trousers** would be ideal.
- Plenty of extra **layers**, which can be added to or removed depending on need! A **spare set of clothes** would be useful too.
- In colder weather, **hat**, **scarf** and **waterproof gloves** are important to keep little fingers warm and dry.

What if I would like to get involved?

Please do make sure that you are signed up to **Seesaw**, as updates, weather warnings and most importantly, photos from the sessions will be uploaded there! The children love it when you 'like' and 'comment' on these posts, so please feel free to do so.

Later in the term we will be having some Forest School sessions off-site, utilising the amazing woodlands and other outdoor spaces within our local area. We are always grateful for **parent volunteers** to help with these sessions, so please get in touch if you would like to offer your services, letting us know your potential availability, and then we can start the process of DBS checks etc.

We use lots of **resources** during our sessions, most of which we source from donations or buy ourselves, but there are also some things you may be able to help us with. If you have any of the following which you would be willing to donate, please do let us know.

- Wood for fires: small logs, kindling
- Den supplies: long poles/branches, ropes, tarpaulins, groundsheets, planks
- Bird feeders and food
- Gardening supplies: tools, gloves
- Craft resources: wool, clay, string, bamboo poles

If you have anything else that you think we could make use of, please get in touch via the office, or send us a message on Seesaw of course!

Many thanks,

The Forest School Team