



St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

'Doing our best for God'

Monday, 31 January 2022

Dear Parents, Grandparents and friends of St Bernadette's,

I have had the great pleasure of working with your children to develop the Forest School area over the last few months. The children have been enthusiastic about coming out to their Forest School sessions whatever the weather and getting stuck into the activities offered. A special thank you to all the parents who have provided their children with plenty of layers, waterproofs and wellies, and then had to deal with the mud when they got home! Some sessions have been focused on tool use, while others on knots, shelters or fire. Lots of the children have been involved in the craft I have offered and lots more have thoroughly enjoyed the free play aspect of the den area.

So far, we have established a fire circle with log seating and a fire pit, a den building area, a mud kitchen and a large muddy hole. We have planted 40 trees, bulbs and seed bombs across the school site and allowed an area to grow naturally. The raised beds have been a great source of interest and we have planted garlic and onions with more veggies going in when Spring is here.

We have plans to convert the muddy hole into a pond to attract more wildlife to our Forest School area. You may also have noticed that the plastic bottle green house has had a little TLC to its roof, and we plan on using that in the coming months. But we need your help. We are looking for people who are knowledgeable and skilful in:

- Establishing a pond
- Creating a fence around the pond area
- Building / providing trestle style tables for use in the greenhouse
- Making welly racks to store / hose down wellies at the end of a session

We welcome all donations of materials, plants and time to help us get these project underway for your children to use.

We are also on the lookout for anyone who is willing to come and volunteer to help during Forest School sessions with the children. If you have been enthused by what you have heard about Forest School from the children, and have a Tuesday or Wednesday afternoon free, we would love to welcome you to our Forest School sessions.

We know that Forest School has an amazing impact on our children, their health, wellbeing and confidence and we want to continue that in partnership with our community.

Kind regards
Kate Topping
Forest School Leader



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