

# Guide for Parents

## Our Nature Area



At St. Helen's we are fortunate to have an area in the school dedicated to nature. This provides an essential resource for teachers and children; providing stimulation to learn more about woodland life, plants and animals but also how to care for our environment and protect it for future use by everyone.

### What will happen in the nature area ?

This year, all classes will have the opportunity to use this area fortnightly. Each session will last approximately an hour and a half. Activities will include games, building dens, imaginative play, natural crafts, using tools, fires and cooking, scavenger hunts, art work, tree climbing, pond dipping, quiet reflective time and caring for the environment.



## **What to wear?**

Wearing the right clothing is essential to promote enjoyment and love of nature. Please bring in these clothes on the appointed day – the children will be reminded!

**Winter** : hats, gloves, scarves, waterproof footwear (wellies/boots), warm but old clothing – long tops and bottoms, old coat/fleece in a marked carrier bag.

**Summer** : old long trousers/leggings, short sleeved top, hat, trainers but sandals are not appropriate.

Nature area visits will occur in all weathers including rain!

**Be prepared for the children to return home muddy and dirty!**

## **Timetable**

**Year 1 – Friday**

**Year 2- Tuesday**

**Year 3 – Monday**

**Year 4 – Monday or Thursday**

**Year 5- Monday**

**Year 6 - Friday**

## **Benefits of Nature Area sessions:**

Develops a positive attitude to nature,

Promotes caring for the environment,

Promotes a positive attitude to learning,

Promotes independence,

Raises personal confidence,

Builds friendships,

Develops physical activity,

Promotes risk taking in a safe, secure environment,

Develops an understanding of nature and wildlife,

Develops wider social skills.



## Safety

Each session will be led by the class teacher who will be accompanied by a teaching assistant. Risk assessments for the site and activities are carried out for every session. Before each session children are reminded of the agreements made and all safety aspects are considered.



## Questions

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact your class teacher or Mrs Miller (Year 6 teacher – Thursday and Fridays). We will be happy to explain further.

