

Horsell C of E (A) Junior School

July 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

We are delighted to offer Skills sessions again this year as part of the National Curriculum. Under Skills sessions the children will be taking part in Cookery, Forest School, Swimming and PE.

In the past we have asked for a parental contribution for the skills provision. To help us to cover the costs of offering our skills provision this year we are asking for a contribution of £45.00 to cover the cost of Cookery, Forest School and Swimming for the entire year.

This can either be paid as a one-off payment of £45.00 or 5 instalments of £10 x 4 and £5 x 1. Payment should be made on WisePay which can be found under parents tab on the website. Please do get in touch with Mrs Wand if you are experiencing any difficulties in making this payment.

Allergy Box / Medical Information – On WisePay under Skills section a box has been created for parents to inform us of any allergies or medical information pertinent to their child.

Swimming

We have a fantastic covered swimming pool which can be used the whole year through. Each class will swim for one term. Each class will be divided into three groups and will swim for 40 minutes at a time.

The lessons will be taken by our qualified swimming coach, Mr Counsell.

For each swimming lesson your child should bring, in a waterproof bag, a swimming costume, (Bermuda Shorts and Bikinis are not suitable for school swimming) towel and a hat and all items must be named. The children are permitted to wear swimming goggles if they wish to do so.

Forest School

Forest School is an opportunity for your child to experience nature and the outdoor environment in a safe, secure and hands-on way.

Our 'forest' is situated on Horsell Common and the school grounds. We are lucky to have a diverse mixture of trees including Oak, Elm, Willow, Birch, Elder and Ash, some of which will be used during our sessions in many different ways. There are old wood piles to attract insects and small mammals, squirrels and birds.

The children are encouraged to investigate and explore but also to respect all living things. Children learn best from first hand experiences by exploring and playing together through a range of activities, leading to great learning opportunities.

The activities are designed by the leader and instigated by the children. Forest School builds independence, high self-esteem and team building skills and all sessions are linked to the National Curriculum including numeracy, literacy and cross curricular subjects. Health and Safety considerations are always of paramount importance.

The woodland we use is fairly dry but has lots of sticks along with some nettles and brambles underfoot. A base camp area is available for the comfort and wellbeing of your child should we have downpours!

Children should bring the following items in a named bag:

- sturdy trainers, boots or wellies with socks;
- long trousers, long sleeved top, waterproof jacket, waterproofs over trousers (or a spare pair if wet);
- a light water bottle;
- a small rucksack;
- hat suitable for sun or winter as required;
- an extra spare layer is useful in the rucksack in case weather changes or there is a high wind chill;
- multiple thin layers are best for warmth and can always be removed if too warm.

All clothes should be named. The thickness of clothing will depend on the season.

Parents should note that Forest School takes place in all weather and is only cancelled if there is high wind.

Please use old clothes and let your child know that at Forest School they CAN GET DIRTY AND YOU DO NOT MIND! Sun cream should also be applied before school if the weather is hot.

Contact Details:

Please make sure the school has a contact number for you so that you can be contacted in case of emergencies.

Parent Helpers

For **Swimming and Forest School** to take place it is essential we have parental help to assist with the children. If you are able to help, please contact our school office or e-mail **b.parsons@horsell-junior.surrey.sch.uk**

If you are able to **help with Cookery** please e-mail **s.spiller@horsell-junior.surrey.sch.uk**

All helpers will be required to have a current DBS with our school. A link is available on the school website under 'parents info' for parents to make their application. If you need any help with this process please contact the school office. We are always very grateful for parent support and appreciate any help you are able to provide.

Music Lessons:

Please note that if your child has a music lesson on the afternoon of Forest School a note must be given to the Music Teacher via their practice book or separately. The teacher may be able to rearrange the time of the lesson **IF** advance notice has been given. If the teacher cannot reschedule the lesson time it is up to parents to choose between Forest School or instrumental lessons. Unfortunately credits/refunds cannot be given for missed lessons under these circumstances. Provision is available for children to remain at school with the remaining half of their class.