



Headteacher: Mr Adrian King B.A Hons (OTS) NPOH

West Stoke Road Lavant Chichester West Sussex PO18 0BW

Tel: 01243 527382 Fax: 01243 530677
E-mail: office@lavant.w-sussex.sch.uk
Website: www.lavant.w-sussex.sch.uk

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## **Dear Parents**



Following the success of our Forest Schools programme over the last two years we are delighted to be able to continue the project again next year.

Next half term children in Year 3 will be visiting a new site: the woodlands in the grounds of Lavant House School on a Thursday afternoons with Mrs Upjohn. The sessions will start on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February and will continue for five weeks, until 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Each session will be led by Julia Shepherd and Rachel Maynard from Chichester Forest Schools. Both are experienced level 3 Forest School practitioners with Wilderness First Aid Training. They are fully insured and DBS checked.

On Forest School days the children will need to wear, long trousers and long sleeved shirts and bring waterproofs and wellies or walking boots. (The appropriate footwear for Forest Schools **must not** be worn to school in the morning but brought in a bag ready to change into after lunch.)

As the site is much closer, the children will be able to walk to Lavant House School after their lunch and will return to school in time for the end of the school day. Therefore no booster seats will be needed.

All feedback regarding Forest Schools is incredibly positive and I certainly know the children thoroughly enjoy their session each week. As well as supporting learning, it is well documented that Forest School sessions also help to:

- Build confidence and self esteem
- Improve motivation and encourage co operation
- Encourage responsibility, independence and the management of risk
- Improve language, communication and social skills

Signed .....

- Improve physical motor skills
- Increase understanding of the physical environment and seasonal change
- Encourage a positive attitude to learning

As a school we have fully financed each session in the past at a considerable cost to the school. We are committed to continuing these sessions for every child but it would really help if every family could make a small voluntary contribution of £1.00 per session (£5.00 for the half term). If you have any difficulty making a contribution, do not hesitate to speak to either of us.

Please sign the permission slip below to enable your child to travel by car to the nature reserve, and return to school with your contribution at your earliest convenience. Please note, we are unable to take any child without a completed permission slip.

Many thanks.	PAllojolin	
Mr Adrian King	Mrs J Upjohn	
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