



Vernham Dean Gillum's Church of England Primary School

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Executive Headteacher: Mr Ian Hickman

<https://www.vernhamdeanschool.co.uk>  [vernhamdeanprimaryschool](#)

4th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Starting Friday 11th September, we will be running weekly Forest School sessions every Friday afternoon.

What is Forest School?

Forest School offers learners regular opportunities to build confidence, resilience, and self-esteem through hands-on experiences in a natural setting. During these sessions, children will explore the outdoors, connect with nature, build teamwork skills, use tools safely, and engage in creative play and physical movement.

Weather Policy

Forest School takes place in almost all weather, including rain! We only postpone or move indoors during extreme conditions, such as high winds or thunderstorms. Having the correct clothing ensures your child stays warm, dry, and happy throughout the afternoon.

Forest School Kit List

Please send your child to school with their named Forest School kit in a dedicated bag on Friday mornings. **All items must be clearly labelled.**

Essential Items:

- **Waterproof Jacket:** A durable, waterproof coat (preferably with a hood).
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- **Wellington Boots (Wellies) or Sturdy Walking Boots:** Waterproof footwear with good grip.
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- **Long Trousers:** (e.g., jogging bottoms or leggings) – No shorts or skirts, as long trousers protect legs from nettles, brambles, ticks, and scrapes, even in warm weather.
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- **Long-Sleeved Top:** Helps protect arms from insects and scratches.
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- **Socks:** A thick pair of socks to keep feet warm and comfortable in boots.

Optional:

- **Waterproof Trousers / Overalls:** For damp days, mud play, and sitting on cold ground.

Cold/Winter Weather Additions:

- **Warm Layers:** Fleece jackets, thermal base layers, or extra jumpers (multiple thin layers are warmer than one thick layer).



- **Hat, Gloves, and Scarf:** Essential during colder months (waterproof or warm woolly gloves).
- **Extra Socks:** A spare pair in their bag in case feet get damp.

Warm/Summer Weather Additions:

- **Sun Hat / Cap:** To protect against heat and sun.
- **Sun Cream:** Please apply long-lasting sun cream before school on sunny days.

Important: Forest School is active and muddy! Please send your child in old clothes rather than special or expensive items.

Health, Safety & Hygiene

- **Medical Conditions & Allergies:** Please ensure the school office has up-to-date information regarding any medical needs, severe allergies (e.g., insect stings, pollen, plants), or dietary restrictions.
- **Medication & Inhalers:** Any required emergency medication (such as asthma inhalers or Auto-Injectors) must be in date and logged with the school. Children cannot participate without their prescribed emergency medication.
- **Insect Repellent & Sun Cream:** If your child requires specific prescribed insect repellent or skin creams, please label them clearly and speak with the class teacher.
- **Hygiene:** Handwashing facilities (clean water, soap, and hand sanitizer) are always provided before outdoor snacks and before returning to the classroom.

Thank you for your support in helping us deliver these enriching outdoor learning opportunities! Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Miss Richards', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Miss Richards
Forest School Lead