

Coppice Primary School
Head of School: Mr M Fernandez
Executive Headteacher: Mrs C Pike
Manford Way, Chigwell, Essex, IG7 4AL
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Friday 5th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers of 5P Class,

Forest School sessions provide an excellent opportunity for children to engage with nature, it is a child-centred learning process, providing learner inspired, hands-on experiences in the natural environment. It's creative and can increase a child's confidence as they problem-solve and learn to manage risks. Together we learn to identify various fauna and flora, explore the local ecosystem in our school grounds, participate in bushcraft activities, engage in citizen science projects, care for our trees, orchard and tree nursery, also take part in gardening activities whilst learning to safely use a variety of tools and equipment. Our sessions are tailored to meet each child's needs, with small groups within the school grounds. During the day they will also take part in outdoor activities with their class teacher, supporting theme or subject learning.

Forest School sessions take place outdoors regardless of the weather, except in cases of high winds, thunderstorms, or ice. **Children should come to school on the following date wearing old clothes that cover their arms and legs and that are suitable for the weather conditions on the day (please also bring school shoes to wear inside the building)**:

- Thursday, 2nd October 2025
- Thursday, 29th January 2026
- Thursday, 7th May 2026
- Wednesday, 1st July 2026

To ensure the children can fully enjoy and participate in Forest School activities, here are some suggestions for appropriate clothing:

- **Clothes that can get dirty** suggested layers include: long-sleeved t-shirt, jumper or fleece, old tracksuit bottoms/trousers, old onesie, warm/fluffy socks, hat, gloves, and scarf in cooler weather, or a sunhat in warmer weather.
- **Wellington boots or walking boots with thick socks or two pairs of socks in winter**. Please also bring school shoes for wearing inside the school building. As some activities may be muddy and/or wet, please pack a **spare pair of socks/tights.**
- **A coat** preferably with a hood and waterproof, as the weather can change quickly.
- **A water bottle** to stay hydrated, whatever the weather.

Please note: We now have a selection of different sized wellington boots, waterproof jackets, and waterproof trousers for children to borrow to wear over the top of their own old clothes for Forest School. However, if your child has their own, please pack them in a bag so they can wear them.



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We look forward to discovering more about the orchard and trees, wildlife, birds, and habitats in our grounds, and learning new skills during our Forest School sessions.

Kind regards,

Karen Dunstan, Forest School Leader