



Oakmeadow Primary School   
Part of the Marches Academy Trust

Oakmeadow CE Primary School  
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16<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

It was a real joy to see how much the children enjoyed our recent cross country run, and with this in mind, we have been thinking about how we can continue to enhance and excite the children's learning within our current restrictions.

In Year 3, we have decided to plan our writing journey based on the text 'The Lost Words' by Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris. The book is based on using nature and landscape words that are falling from common usage, and converting them into a 'spell-book'. To stimulate their learning, we would like to take the children on a nature walk up to the coppice in Lyth Bank, ideally **during our first week back, commencing 2<sup>nd</sup> November**. We will use the experience back in school to develop their vocabulary, language choices and poetry writing, as well as the wider curriculum – in particular art.

We believe that with thorough research and risk assessment procedures, this is an outing that we will be able to run safely. This is in line with the Guidance for full opening: schools document published by the DFE – educational visits, which encourages schools to 'make use of outdoor spaces in the local area to support the delivery of the curriculum'. The weather will be a key factor and the date will be chosen and communicated to you on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November once a (hopefully!) accurate weather forecast is available for us to choose the best day.

To mitigate risk, we are asking that there are no spectators along the route and on site during the outing. As well as sharing this request within the school community, we have contacted the Parish Council who have asked on line for the public to stay away from the coppice during the allotted hours.

Following morning registration as usual, the two classes (we are 1 bubble) will walk up to the area with members of staff following usual procedures. We will be following a route which takes us out of the school grounds; however this is fully risk assessed and supervised at all points.

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We have considered a one-way route, but feel that the risk posed by traffic through returning down Lyth Hill would be greater than any threat posed by COVID through returning along the same lane through Lyth Farm. We will however be following the path in a one-way direction through the coppice to mitigate risk where possible. Hand sanitizing will take place prior to and after the event, as well as before eating a snack in the woods. We will be back at school in time for lunch.

In order to make the most of the opportunity, we are asking that children please come to school dressed in appropriate warm, old, outdoor clothing, as they would for Forest Fun sessions, with waterproof coats and appropriate comfy footwear for walking. There is a risk of minor scrapes, stings and bruises, but appropriate clothing will help mitigate this and two first aiders will be accompanying us. They will need a water bottle as usual and we will provide a biscuit treat. Please could children bring a change of clothes and footwear in case they get muddy. Any medication such as asthma inhalers and spacers are also essential as is normal school practice.

As this is part of the curriculum expectations and during a school day, no further consent is required. However, if you do have any concerns or envisage your child having a problem, please contact me on 01743 875020 or email [admin@oakmeadowprimary.co.uk](mailto:admin@oakmeadowprimary.co.uk) marking it for the attention of Mrs Griffiths, outdoor learning.

Thank you for your support in what should be a special outing for the children.

Yours sincerely,

Jo Griffiths  
Year 3 Teacher

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