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Dear Parent and Carers,

Woodland Activities

In line with our current School Development Plan priorities, children in all year groups are undertaking practical activities in our Woodland Area (located beside the potting shed, towards our Chestnut Way/Rectory Close access gate).

Wrens and Robins have been making dens for toys, painting using natural materials and will be making 'potions'; Swallows and Finches have been problem solving building towers with sticks and will be using simple tools (peelers) to remove bark so that they can draw faces on their stickmen; Wagtails and Woodpeckers will be looking at fire safety next week as well as having a go using flints to create sparks to light a group fire. All activities have been fully tested and risk assessed by staff following training and will be delivered in varying group sizes ranging from whole class to 1:1 as appropriate.

Y1 - potato peelers for peeling bark

A ratio of 1 adult to 2 children will be observed initially as children become familiar with rules and proficient in use. This tool is used seated on a log with elbows placed upon knees and using the tool in a downward motion between the legs or to the side of and away from the body. Children will wear a protective glove on their 'helping hand' when they are using tools such as peelers. Their 'Helping Hand' is the hand that is not being used to control the tool.

Y2 – flints, sparks and fire

A ratio of 1:1 within a small group will be observed when using flints. The steel fire pit will be contained within an exclusion perimeter/fire circle. Flame retardant gloves, a fire blanket, bucket of water, burns kit and metal fire bin are accessible at all times. Fire circle rules are strictly enforced.

From September we will be providing all parents with a Woodland Activity Handbook containing our planned programme of activities plus details of the relevant policies and procedures. This will include a consent form for children to participate. **However, as far as the planned activities for next week are concerned, please notify the class teacher if you do not wish for your child to take part (Y1 potato peelers; Y2 flints and sparks).** Do also approach your child's class teacher if you have any questions.

We hope that you are as excited by these plans as we (children and staff) are! PTA funds are making this project possible and we are very busy with plans to further develop our Woodland Area ready for September and the next academic year. Thank you so much for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

Katherine Smith

