



Website: www.richardson-dees.eschools.co.uk

Email: office@rdees.org.uk

Telephone: 0191 263 8139

High Street East

Wallsend

Tyne and Wear

NE28 7RT



Headteacher: Mr W Myers BA (Hons) PGCE NPQH
Chair of Governors: Mrs A Parker BA (Hons) FCIPD MIOD

Friday 24th September

Year 1 Woods Visits

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to tell you that your child will shortly be starting their weekly visits to Richardson Dees Park. This is a part of our curriculum that was sadly interrupted by COVID but we are now able to bring it back.

We will be organising seven weekly afternoon sessions before the winter weather arrives. Children make the short walk from school and the project takes place in school time.

In order for the children to get the most out of the experience, we will be splitting into two sessions – Monday or Wednesday afternoon.

Your child's session will either be on a Monday (starting 04.10.21) or a Wednesday (starting 06.10.21) – you have already been given a physical letter with this information.

Below is a list of things that your child will need. If there is anything you don't have or that you need, please let us know and we will do our best to help you out in any way that we can.

- Joggers or leggings - they will be getting dirty!
- Wellies if you have them or old trainers if you don't.
- A waterproof or old coat, with a hood, that you don't mind getting muddy.

Please could you send your child into school in the clothes they will wear for the woods on their chosen day. We will help change them into their waterproofs and wellies before we leave for the woods.

Thank you for your support,

Mr W Myers, Headteacher





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Why Learn Outdoors?

There are clear health benefits associated with outdoor learning. Exercise is an essential component of children's physical and emotional development. When children attend the woods, we ensure through purposeful planned activities that these needs are more than met every session. Other important benefits to our children are:

- Children learn through negotiating plans with their friends, maybe to build a shelter for a hedgehog or working out whose turn it is first on the rope swing. They learn to co-operate through group games and enjoy the company of others as they play and relax.
- Children are motivated to talk about their stimulating experiences. We create a relaxed, supportive environment in which the children feel safe and valued, and at every opportunity throughout the session we promote high-quality talk that develops the children's confidence and speaking and listening skills.
- The woods are full of open-ended resources that stimulate children's imaginations. Rather than taking a whole array of resources and toys with us, the focus at the woods is on using what we find for imaginative, exploratory play and for creating and building.
- Hands-on use of real objects is the cornerstone of developing mathematical understanding and as with all learning, engagement is the key. So the woods is the perfect place to develop those early maths skills, whether it be through counting conkers, pacing out distances, or finding shapes we recognise in our world around us.
- Learning about the flora and fauna, life cycles, the weather, the seasons, growth, habitats, insulation, light and dark, sound, forces the list is endless. We are in nature's classroom and make the most of it.

