

'A Caring Christian Family Where We Grow Together'

Bunbury Aldersey CE Primary School

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs Fiona Todd

Principal: Mrs Nicola Badger

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25th May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Help from businesses needed to sponsor the Forest School Shelter and Outdoor Learning area
Wouldn't it be fantastic if the Forest School area could be built over the summer ready for the new school year in September? Given this disruptive last year, our children really need it.

Emerging from the pandemic, our children's mental health and connection to nature is more important than ever. Group outdoor activities will grow the children's self-belief, resilience, co-operation and problem solving-skills and will improve wellbeing – all within a natural environment.

With our fundraising opportunities impacted by COVID, we are seeking **help to meet the costs**. Mrs Badger has obtained quotes as follows based on the provisional designs. We'd love to hear from any businesses interested in **sponsoring any/part of the items or donating materials/equipment directly**.



- Octagonal shelter - £9000**
- Raised planters around shelter - £1500**
- Fire pit - £500**
- Renewable energy pack - £3000**
- Water Butt - £300**

Making a **positive environmental and social impact** is important to many businesses and this is a great **opportunity to support our children's development and contribute to our community**.

The area will be accessible to Early Birds Pre-School and other local groups (outside school hours). Sponsorship and donations will be marked with signs on the equipment and will be publicised.

More details are included on the next page. Please share with prospective sponsors – it explains why Forest School will make such a difference and how much it will be appreciated.

We look forward to hearing from you pta@bunburyaldersey.cheshire.sch.uk or please approach any member of the PTA,

Thank you for your continuing support,

Your PTA



Forest School Area project - from Mrs Badger, Principal

At Bunbury School, we believe passionately about the mental health and well-being of all our children. Ensuring that the children are in the 'right place' mentally to learn is so important in supporting us to make sure that each child reaches their potential and is able to "Let their Light Shine."

Across our school we have a number of initiatives which already support us with our drive for being a mentally healthy school. However, we would like to develop our provision further with the addition of an outdoor learning and forest schools area.

Research now backs up what school practitioners have known all along – that children and young people are stimulated by the outdoors and typically experience overtime increases their self-belief, confidence, learning capacity, enthusiasm, problem solving-skills and emotional well-being.

Outdoor learning and forest school provision creates a safe, non-judgmental nurturing environment for learners to try new things out and take risks. Forest School inspires a deep and meaningful connection to the world and an understanding of how a learner fits within it. The calculated approach to risk means that learners constantly expand on their abilities by solving real-world issues, building self-belief and resilience. We believe that risk is more than just potential for physical harm, but a more holistic thing, there are risks in everything we do, and we grow by overcoming them. Forest School therefore, helps participants to become, healthy, resilient, creative and independent learners. As we emerge post pandemic this vision of mentally healthy children with an inclusive provision for all is more important than ever.

"It will be a quieter environment where we can learn with nature." Year 6 pupil

"It will improve our mental health." Year 6 pupils

"It will help with concentration especially in the summer when it is hot in the classroom." Year 4 pupil

"It will be relaxing and it will give us fresh air" Year 4 pupil

"It will be fun and we will be able to learn survival skills" Year 3 pupil

"It will provide a change of scenery so that we are not always in the classroom." Year 6 pupil

"It will have a positive impact on children's education" Year 6 pupil

To enable us to develop this further within our school we obviously need to invest in quality resources and provision. We have some provisional drawings and designs as to how we would like and some costs associated with each of the different parts of the development.



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