

Kings' Forest Primary School

Executive Headteacher: Mr R Newman

Headteacher: Ms H Porter



Friday 7th September 2020

Kings' Forest
Primary School

Dear Parents / Carers,

We're writing to let you know that the children will be starting woodwork from September. We believe this is a wonderful medium for children to work with but we are aware that you may be surprised that we will allow the children to use real tools, such as hammers and saws! We want to take this opportunity to explain why we think woodwork is such an important activity and reassure you that safety is always prioritised.

Woodwork truly engages children and encompasses all areas of learning and development. Children really respond to the challenge and very much enjoy working with wood and real tools. It encompasses so much learning – children will be developing their physical coordination and hand eye coordination; they will be learning basic mathematical concepts, such as shape and measure and develop their mathematical thinking skills; they will be developing their understanding of the world – seeing tools as basic technology, understanding wood as a material and observing many scientific concepts such as the rotation of a wheel, levering nails back up or using a hand drill to drill holes; they will be developing their language with new vocabulary, using language to talk about their ideas; and children can develop their mark-making and drawing by expressing ideas on paper and also marking on the wood itself.

But there are two areas where woodwork really excels. Firstly, it develops children's self-esteem and confidence – it is empowering for children to create with real tools and they take great delight in their achievements. It develops a can-do spirit. Secondly it develops children's thinking skills – their creative and critical thinking increase as they problem solve and express their imaginations with wood.

In terms of safety, this is prioritised at all times. We adhere to strict guidelines such as the children must wear safety glasses at all times and sawing is only ever done with 1:1 adult supervision. Of course, we cannot eliminate all risk, and there will be the occasional bruised thumb, but part of children's development is that they need to learn to manage risk and make judgements to protect themselves so they are better able to make decisions in all situations that life presents.

Resource request: *children manage to get through a lot of resources with woodwork and our biggest challenge is keeping up with demand. We would very much like to encourage you to help us by bringing in any offcuts of soft wood, such as balsa and pine, and other resources such as packaging foam, bottle tops, corks, lids and spare fixtures and fittings. They can join a lot together quite quickly so we need on-going help with this! Thank you.*

We very much look forward to the children showing you what they have created – but remember the real product that is being made is the changes within the child! As children make with wood, they are learning skills that will empower them to shape their world – encouraging them to become the innovators, makers, sculptors, tinkers, engineers and architects of tomorrow!

Many thanks,

The Early Years Team

Station Road, Kingswood, Bristol, BS15 4PQ

Tel: 01454 866466

Email: admin@kingsforestschool.co.uk Web: www.kingsforestschool.co.uk



Kings' Forest Primary School

Executive Headteacher: Mr R Newman

Headteacher: Ms H Porter

Some photos of children engaging on the wonders of woodwork...



Station Road, Kingswood, Bristol, BS15 4PQ

Tel: 01454 866466

Email: admin@kingsforestschool.co.uk Web: www.kingsforestschool.co.uk

