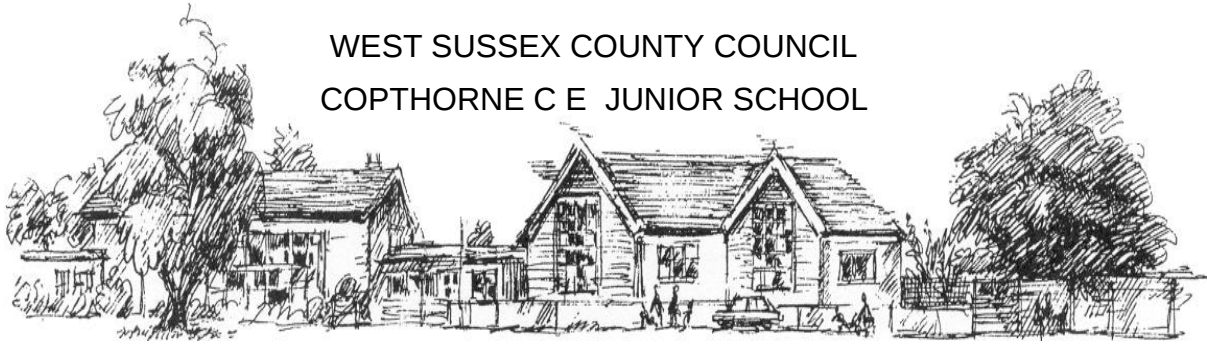


WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL
COPTHORNE C E JUNIOR SCHOOL



CHURCH ROAD, COPTHORNE, WEST SUSSEX, RH10 3RD

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E-mail: office@copthornejunior.co.uk

Monday 15th September, 2025

Copthorne Junior School – Forest School Permissions Form – Year 5

Dear Parents/Carers,

Copthorne CE Junior School is proud to announce the continuation of our Year 5 Forest School programme within the Copthorne Common woodland adjacent to Copthorne Golf Course (off Knowle Close), to give children the unique opportunity of experiencing first hand, play and learning in a controlled outdoor environment.

Forest School is the name for an approach to educating children in the outdoors on a regular basis. This work will support the main curriculum (particularly literacy, science, technology and the arts) and will have a strong emphasis on raising all children's self-esteem and independence. Forest School activities include wood craft, fire-making (and cooking), and den building, as well as learning to understand, appreciate and protect the forest environment.

An integral part of the Forest School experience is that children will experience the outdoors in all weathers and through all seasons. With the exception of very high winds and thunder storms, please assume that your child will be outside when they take part in Forest Schools, even if it is for a shortened session. Year 5's Forest School experience this year will be the season of 'Autumn'.

To fully immerse the children in the full experience we are running the Forest School programme as **whole day sessions**, **beginning with Elm Class Group 1 on Thursday 25th September and for Sycamore Class on Thursday 9th October**, leaving after morning registration and returning just before the end of school.

Each child has been placed into a small group and will experience 2 full days at Forest School. The covering email will advise which group your child is attending.

On the dates (below) children will need to bring with them a shoulder bag / rucksack that contains everything they will need for the day, including: water bottle, snacks, generous packed lunch, waterproof trousers and jacket (with hood), as well as warm layers jumper/top if needed. They should come to school on their allocated day dressed in appropriate outdoor clothing for the weather, ensuring they have waterproof walking shoes or (better yet) wellington boots to change into as needed, depending on the site conditions. Even during warmer weather, the children are required to wear long trousers due to the nature of activities undertaken and movement through the forest environment. Open-toed shoes/sandals are not permitted.

Throughout summer, weather has been pretty dry and sunny, but we know things can quickly change, so please keep an eye on the forecast and dress appropriately.

Children should also bring with them a bag (to leave at school) containing a full change of clothes, including footwear, that they can change into at the end of school should the need require.

Each day, we will be working as a team to transport (using our big trolleys called 'Ant and Dec', as well as our little trolley, 'Jerry'), construct and break down our ever-growing Forest School camp, which includes: 3 large tarpaulin shelters, log seating circle, central campfire, a minimum of 40 litres of clean water, as well as a toilet tent facility and a hand washing station.

We have undertaken a large amount of risk assessments to minimise any risk within Forest School activities to an acceptable level. However, it must be recognised that safety is the responsibility of all participants who are each responsible for the safety of themselves and other participants.

As these are **all day** sessions, if your child has hot school dinners, you will need to ensure you cancel any bookings on the day your child is at Forest School and provide a hearty packed lunch instead. If your child currently has free school meals, you can order a FSM school trip packed lunch for the dates your child attends Forest School.

<u>Date (Full Day Sessions)</u>	<u>Class + Group</u>
Thursday 25th September	Elm 1
Thursday 2nd October	Elm 2
Thursday 9th October	Sycamore 1
Thursday 16th October	Sycamore 2
Thursday 23rd October	Elm 1
HALF TERM BREAK	
Thursday 6th November	Elm 2
Thursday 13th November	Sycamore 1
<u>FRIDAY 21st November</u> Moved to a FRIDAY due to Flu vaccinations	Sycamore 2

Please can we ask that you complete the attached consent forms, so that your child can take part in Forest School activities.

To assist with the cost of running this programme, we ask for a **voluntary contribution of £7.00 per child** towards the purchase and maintenance of equipment (trolleys, tools, cooking kit, tarpaulins etc...) as well as the ongoing campfire materials, foods and refreshments (bread making, waffles, marshmallows, biscuits etc...).

If you have any questions about Forest School, please feel free to contact the school, or look through the comprehensive information available on the front page of our website:

www.copthorne.w-sussex.sch.uk/forest-school

We thank you for your support during this exciting time for your child at Copthorne CE Junior School.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Denison (Headteacher)

Jeff Turner (Forest Leader)

Copthorne CE Junior School – Forest School Permissions Form – Year 5

Name of Child:

I agree to my child taking part in the Copthorne CE Junior Forest School activities at regular intervals during the coming academic year.

Sessions will be led by our fully qualified Forest School staff (Mr Turner) alongside additional supporting adults, all of which are first aid trained.

I understand my child will need to bring appropriate clothing to the weather conditions.

I understand that my child may, at an appropriate level, have opportunities to work with hand tools and small fires through the course of their Forest School work.

I understand that my child will work in groups containing 1 adult and to up to a maximum of 8 children at all times.

<u>Photographs/ Video Recordings</u>	Please indicate YES / NO
I give permission for my child / children to be photographed whilst at Forest School and for these to be used in the child's achievement books, school records and on the school's website and newsletters	
<u>Walking to / from Forest School</u>	
I give my permission for my child / children to walk to/from Copthorne CE Junior School to Forest School site	
<u>Medical Information</u>	
I confirm that the medical information I have supplied to the school is fully up to date	
<u>Insect Stings</u> As an additional precaution, we are required to ask you in more detail about allergies and insect stings	
My child has never been stung by a wasp / bee	
My child has been stung by a wasp / bee and made a normal recovery	
My child has been stung by a wasp / bee and had an allergic reaction <i>If you indicated YES in this box, we will get in touch with you to get further details</i>	
<u>Allergies</u>	
My child has the following allergy/allergies (including foods / drinks):	

Data Protection	
All information provided is covered by the Data Protection Act 1998 and is strictly confidential. I understand and agree to the above being held by Copthorne CE Junior School	

I have clearly indicated to the above permissions relating to (child's name) _____ as their principle carer / parent	Name of Parent/carers	
	Signed	
	Date	

FOREST SCHOOL PROGRAMME - £7.00 VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION

☐ I enclose **£7.00** to towards the cost and maintenance of the tools and equipment to be used in the Forest School programme, as well as the campfire materials, foods and refreshments (please make cheques payable to Copthorne CofE Junior School).

☐ I have paid via online banking. Please use your child's name as the reference.

Lloyds Bank – Copthorne CofE Junior School
Account Number: 02333669
Sort Code: 30-92-38

Under current legislation we are obliged to point out that the cost is a voluntary contribution. However, unless all parents who are willing to contribute do so, trips and events will not be able to take place. Limited financial assistance from the school may be available in certain cases, but please contact our headteacher in confidence as soon as possible, if you are unable to contribute the full cost so that arrangements can be made.

Name of child _____

Class _____

Signed _____

Date _____