



**St Eugene's Primary School**

Victoria Bridge

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31<sup>st</sup> January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

St Eugene's PS, Victoria Bridge is delighted to be involved in a Forest School project delivered by the Northern Ireland Forest School Association and the Dufferin Foundation as part of the "Learning Without Walls" initiative.

Forest School is an exciting and innovative educational experience that has been shown to be hugely beneficial to all those taking part.

Our Foundation Stage class will be involved in the outdoor Forest School sessions throughout this term. We are fortunate to have such ideal school grounds for Forest School and as a result of this we will not need to travel to another location. These sessions will include den building, camouflage games and exploring nature whilst developing literacy, numeracy, physical development and a range of other curricular areas.

The children here at St Eugene's PS are well used to outdoor learning, therefore, we are confident that our boys and girls will fully enjoy the Forest School experience without having to make any big adjustments to their usual routine.

**Our first Forest School day will take place on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> of February. Children should come to school on this day wearing their own comfortable clothing and wellington boots with 2 pairs of socks.** On arrival in school the children will then put on their waterproofs that we use for outdoor play.

The Forest School sessions will be delivered by the Northern Ireland Forest School Association (NIFSA). NIFSA is a local charity that has been set up to promote outdoor environmental education for children in Northern Ireland. For further information please visit their website on [www.forestschoolawards.org](http://www.forestschoolawards.org)

You can support our involvement with Forest Schools in three ways:

- a) Register your family as a Forest School Family for free - <https://www.forestschoolawards.org/cgi-bin/main.cgi?page=Family%20Zone;vat=1568197831>

You will get monthly ideas on how to have fun with your family in your local park.

- b) Like/follow us on Facebook/Instagram/Twitter to see what we do and which school we are/have been working with-

<https://www.facebook.com/Northern-Ireland-Forest-School-Association-527218757325407/>

<https://twitter.com/NIForestSchool/status/1376938184500723721>

[https://www.instagram.com/ni\\_forestschool/](https://www.instagram.com/ni_forestschool/)

Our thanks go to RapidNI for funding this project and giving us this opportunity to become involved in this exciting venture.

Yours sincerely

*Laura Gormley*

**Principal**