

Dear Parents/Carers

We would like to share with you the exciting news that our outdoor provision is very nearly ready! At NJS we are striving to give our children the opportunity to explore the outdoors as enrichment, nurture and as part of our curriculum offer

Unfortunately due to supply issues the area completion date has been delayed somewhat but we are hopeful the area will be ready for children to enjoy over the coming week.

The area has been named Beech's Base in a tribute to Mrs Beech who was part of our school community for many years. Mrs Beech was part of a team who originally began developing the area as a conservation site over 25 years ago! Mrs Beech loved to share the beauty nature has to offer with the children and we endeavour to keep this ethos running.

What is Beech's Base?

Beech's Base is an area developed to enhance our outdoor learning offer. This is an integral part of recovering from the impact COVID has had on our children's wellbeing. In addition to the positive impact on mental health and wellbeing there are many benefits and transferable skills outdoor learning has to offer, some of which are:

- Physical movement and freedom
- Problem solving and resourcefulness
- Rich opportunities for imagination and inventiveness
- Assess risk and develop skills to manage new situations
- Sense of wonder and appreciation for nature and the environment

When will my child visit?

- We have a proposed timetable whereby each child will visit once a half term as a minimum. During this session the learning will have links to their class topic but also a chance to practise skills which enrich the curriculum offer. Each class will have a day whereby half the children will attend in the morning and the other half will attend in the afternoon to ensure children get the most out of being in a smaller group. The date your child will visit will be communicated via the website so that they come prepared.
- Recipients of Headteacher's Awards will be invited to Beech's Base to eat their packed lunch and explore the area the following Monday lunchtime.
- Class Teachers may choose to take children for additional sessions, this will be communicated via homelink/website messages.

What will my child need?

- On the day your child's class is coming to Beech's Base they will need to arrive in old clothes. Please ensure whatever the weather long sleeves and trousers are worn to protect from brambles and nettles.
- They will also need suitable footwear (e.g. Wellies/Walking Boots) in a labelled carrier bag.

- Children will need a set of clothes to change into (for the inevitable situation of them getting muddy!) These can be old clothes as well and uniform is **not** required on this day. Please can this be brought in a labelled carrier bag.
- A waterproof coat/all in one/dungarees would be advisable. If you do not have these we have some waterproof dungarees in school available for children to wear.
- Any weather related items such as gloves and hat for colder weather/Sun Hats for warmer weather is advised. No scarves for safety reasons please.
- Children will be maximising the opportunity to use Beech's Base whatever the weather where safely possible. Please make sure on colder or wet days children have clothing to keep them warm.

If you have any questions please feel free to email me directly jeni.kuczynska@taw.org.uk

We look forward to some muddy fun ☺

Mrs Kuczynska

