

## Children and Nature Awareness Month

Dear Parents / Carers,

We are preparing for Children and Nature Awareness Month in April. The aim of this month is for us to create better connections between children and nature.

Although there are many benefits to the world of technology, it is one of the biggest barriers between children and nature, with an increasing amount of time being spent online – watching television, playing games, internet and mobile phone usage. At Downsell we would like to ensure that all of our children not only spend time utilising the benefits of the online world but also ensure that they have meaningful time outdoors exploring nature.

At the start of the academic year we introduced Forest School for Year 1 pupils. Forest School is a form of outdoor learning that supports children in developing their connection with nature and building their learning outside of the classroom. As part of recognising this month we would like to extend our Forest School sessions to children in EYFS and Years 2 – 6.



Our Year 1 cohort enjoying tree climbing, shelter building and learning how to do knots!



Please attend one of the following sessions:

- Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February – 3pm
- Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March – 9.30am
- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March – 3pm
- Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March – 9.30am
- Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March – 3pm
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March – 9.30am

During these sessions we will cover:

- Information about Forest School, including risk assessments and safeguarding
- Forest School code of conduct
- Volunteers
- Clothing
- Medical
- Year group overview

All parents / carers are asked to attend one of the sessions in order for the correct forms to be completed for your child. We look forward to seeing you there!