



14th February 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Forest Crew Update

I am writing to let you know the situation with Forest Crew following Bryan McManus' departure from Oswald Road. A number of parents got in touch with me following the letter I sent out last month to ask if there was anything that parents could do collectively to help keep Forest Crew running.

One of our biggest barriers is the availability of staff to lead the sessions and make up the ratios we would need to supervise a class of children in an outdoor setting. Another barrier is the capacity to train up new staff, due to lower numbers of Teaching Assistants compared to when we started this initiative. We have looked into the possibility of training up parent volunteers, however for insurance reasons it must be a member of the school's teaching staff that is trained to lead the sessions. Unfortunately this is not something we currently have the capacity to do, as it would mean releasing a member of staff every Friday of the year to cover all three class' sessions.

One parent had enquired about the cost of hiring an external company to lead on the sessions. We looked into the cost for the rest of the academic year and the school would not be in a position to pay for this. A number of parents had very kindly offered to donate money towards getting Forest Crew up and running however, with it being a significant amount of money, I would not feel comfortable splitting the cost between each child and asking parents to cover the cost themselves.

I am very sorry for any disappointment caused to you and, in particular, your children. I wish that we were able to keep Forest Crew running, but I am hopeful that you will understand that funding difficulties put us in a very difficult situation. We are currently in the process of planning something special for each class to do for part of Friday afternoon in place of Forest Crew, which we will let you know about once the details have been confirmed.

Kind regards,

Deborah Howard  
Headteacher



**Inspiration & Success**

