



To the parents of children in Year 4,

I am a Senior Lecturer in Education at the University of Winchester; prior to this I was Deputy Head at Swanmore Primary for 12 years (1994-2006). In connection with my work in Initial Teacher Training and as a Royal Geographical Society Fellow I am interested in the learning and teaching of Primary Geography.

During the Spring Term I am hoping to work with a colleague Dr Helen Clarke to plan a research project called 'Stories of the woods.' It is part of an ongoing investigation into children's relationships with the natural world and explores links between geography, science, English and other curriculum subjects. Our study seeks to develop children's exploration and understanding of woodland environments. The children will have the opportunity to participate in a range of experiential woodland activities using a variety of creative and active teaching and learning strategies, which we hope will be motivating, thought provoking and enjoyable.

As part of this project we aim to collect the children's ideas and actions through audio recording, photographs, drawings and written observations in the field. With permission, some of this data may be used within University sessions to share with our students, at research conferences to share practice or within academic and professional publications to explore theoretical and practical aspects of teaching and learning in geography. We will also provide copies for the school as evidence of the learning undertaken.

The students have undergone DBS enhanced clearance. Once we have collected this data all reference to individual children and the school will be erased to ensure confidentiality. No real names of children will be included in any articles that we write. You have the right to see the outcomes of the research that involves your child specifically. With your permission, we would like to take photographs of the children at work; these photographs will be kept securely in a password protected computer and only used for the purpose of sharing research within the educational community.

If you have any concerns or questions about this process, I am willing to discuss this with you. I can be contacted at the University of Winchester via e mail: Sharon.Witt@winchester.ac.uk.

This is the fifth year we have collaborated on our woodland project. We are delighted to be given this opportunity and are looking forward to working with the children of Swanmore CE (Aided) Primary School once more.

Thank you very much

Yours sincerely

Dr Sharon Witt

TITLE OF PROJECT: Into the Woods

CONSENT FORM

I have read and understood the information about the “Wisdom of the woods” project undertaken by Sharon Witt. I understand that my child’s participation in this project is completely voluntary, and that (s/he) may withdraw at any time during the project.

The data will be completed within a school day on a visit to Captain Phillimore’s Woods and I understand that the findings may be shared in education research papers/publications and with some of the students and staff at the University of Winchester.

I understand arrangements have been made to ensure anonymity and privacy. I am aware that I have the right to see what has been written about my child.

Arrangements for secure storage of data, and for its eventual disposal, will be made.

I do/do not (delete as appropriate) give my permission for my child to participate in the project.

On this basis, I consent to _____ (name of child) participation in the project.

Signed Date

Name of Child: Class: