The Secret of Easthaven Forest Quick Start Guide

So you've looked at everything in the box and have no idea how to start, where to begin, or even what a good first step might be. Maybe this is your first box and you aren't sure how things work. Or maybe things just aren't clicking for you on this particular box. Maybe a few starting hints will blow the case wide open and will be all you need to help solve the mystery.

Beginning the investigation:

1. Read the Beginning Brief. It says, "Begin by examining the crime scene and reading the kids' accounts of what happened to them. Then see if the police have anything that could be of use to you."
2. This gives you two potential puzzles to kick off the case. One is found on the back of Reggie Duncan's card. The other involves gaining access to Phil Herbert's virus-infected computer.

Reggie Duncan's Puzzle:

1. Reggie has some important information for you that will help you determine what is going on and tells you to visit his blog.
2. At the bottom of his interview card, he gives you a coded link that will lead to his blog.
3. Right before he gives you the encoded blog link, he provides a hint when he says, "But I can't be the only one left. See what I did there?"
4. What this means is to take each letter of the coded link and shift one letter to the left.
5. Example: The letter C would become B, B would become A, and so on.
6. Once you have the correct link to Reggie's blog, he gives you the key to getting Katy to talk to you. He also provides one of the criteria for how the suspects have been chosen (one thing they all have in common).

Unlocking Phil Herbert's Computer:

1. This involves unlocking the computer which has been locked by a virus.
2. The fax from FLUK3 holds the key to opening the computer.
3. Each letter of the alphabet at the bottom of the fax is represented by a series of 5 characters (* and B).
4. The letters in the message from FLUK3 are underlined in groups of 5. Some of them are in bold print.
5. The * represents characters in the message that aren't in bold and the B represents characters in the message that are in bold.
6. Take each underlined group of numbers, determine the pattern of * and B that make up that grouping of letters, and match it up to the appropriate letter below.
7. Example: abcd**e** would be represented in the alphabet by ****B because the first four characters aren't bold and the fifth is. When we look at the alphabet supplied by FLUK3 that would give you the letter B.
8. Apply this approach to each grouping of underlined letters until you have the passcode to bypass the computer virus.
9. Once you have done this, you will know which suspect matches up with which photo.

***If you need more help past this point, consult the puzzle hint files or join us in the Hint Group on Facebook!