



St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School

A community of faith and learning following Jesus in all we think, do and say

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Forest Schools at Paddington Recreation Ground 2026/2027

We are delighted to inform you that St. Mary of the Angels is continuing our Forest School in partnership with Sayers Croft Urban Nature Space at Paddington Recreation Ground. This academic year Reception to Year 4 classes will have six half day visits to the Urban Nature Space to take part in Forest School.

Please note, your child will NOT require a packed lunch as this is a half day visit.

There is no charge for the sessions. The details of the visits are as follows:

Reception Robins Forest School Dates – Session Time: 9:30-11:30am

Thursday 1 st October 2026	Thursday 19 th November 2026	Thursday 21 st January 2027
Thursday 11 th March 2027	Thursday 29 th April 2027	Thursday 24 th June 2027

Y1 Hummingbirds Forest School Dates – Session Time: 1-3pm

Thursday 1 st October 2026	Thursday 19 th November 2026	Thursday 21 st January 2027
Thursday 11 th March 2027	Thursday 29 th April 2027	Thursday 24 th June 2027

Y2 Kingfishers Forest School Dates – Session Time: 1-3pm

Thursday 24 th September 2026	Friday 20 th November 2026	Thursday 14 th January 2027
Friday 12 th March 2027	Thursday 22 nd April 2027	Friday 25 th June 2027

Y3 Swifts Forest School Dates – Session Time: 09.30-11.30am

Thursday 17 th September 2026	Thursday 5 th November 2026	Thursday 7 th January 2027
Thursday 25 th February 2027	Thursday 15 th April 2027	Thursday 10 th June 2027

Y4 Kestrels Forest School Dates – Session Time: 1-3pm

Thursday 17 th September 2026	Thursday 5 th November 2026	Thursday 7 th January 2027
Thursday 25 th February 2027	Thursday 15 th April 2027	Thursday 10 th June 2027

Location

Paddington Recreation Ground environmental area.

Objectives

Forest School was introduced to the UK in 1993 and was inspired by outdoor learning in Denmark. It has now grown into a well-known and much respected concept. Forest School focuses on child led learning, giving participants ownership over the area during their visits. Children are valued and encouraged, have lots of fun, learn new skills and enjoy a positive experience in the park, engaging with nature as well as increasing their independence and self-esteem, which can transfer into other areas of life.

Each session will have a theme, although child-led learning is an essential aspect of Forest School so we may go off on a tangent! Circle times are an important part of the sessions, taking time to share experiences and ideas, develop communication skills as well as creating a sense of community.

Forest School provides a safe environment for children to:-

- Engage with nature
- Learn new skills
- Have fun
- Become more independent
- Learn in the way they find works best
- Be encouraged in a positive learning environment
- Enhance their self-esteem

We have found that as children become used to Forest School their behaviour starts to change. During the first session the exploring time often involves a lot of running back and forth showing each other the different places they have found.

In later sessions, the children are usually much more focussed in their exploring, noticing the bees pollinating the flowers, sitting watching the creatures in the pond or working in small groups to create dens for example. The Forest School leaders will encourage the children in their discoveries and facilitate their learning during the exploring time, as well as introducing interesting activities for the children to take part in.

Equipment

Sayers Croft will provide all the equipment needed for the Forest School sessions and drinks will be provided for half day sessions but please ensure your child wears their PE kit to school (jogging bottoms not shorts. PE T-shirt and PE sweatshirt/cardigan/jumper) and brings the following:

- A refillable water bottle
- Wellington boots in wet weather, otherwise trainers
- Extra thick socks
- Hat, gloves, scarf in winter months
- Waterproofs – coat and trousers if they have them
- Sunhat and sun cream in summer months
- Few spare items of clothing in case of accidents

Thank you for your support with volunteering to accompany us on past and future visits.

Kind regards,

Mrs Connery, Miss Hannah, Mr Drury, Mrs Cox & Miss Noori