

## Nature Tots Forest School at Walthamstow Wetlands

### Information Pack 2023

#### About Nature Tots Forest School

Nature Tots is a Forest School programme for pre-school children aged 18 months to 5 years. We engage and inspire young people and their carers to connect with nature through hands-on outdoor activities around wildlife.

During Nature Tots, children will explore their natural surroundings, discovering the animals and habitats around them. Activities include minibeast hunting, pond dipping, cooking, stories, music and nature crafts. Nature Tots helps children develop their confidence and emotional well-being, and skills in independent learning, problem solving, working with others and creativity.



Building confidence



Problem solving with others



Family bug hunting



Family pond dipping



Creativity



Up close with nature

## Parents/Guardians

Parents and children participate together. All children remain the responsibility of parents and carers throughout the session and must be supervised at all times. Any one adult must be accompanying no more than three children under 5.

## Staff

Our staff leading the sessions are all Forest School Level 3 practitioners, are DBS checked, and are first aid trained. All our activities are risk assessed, our risk assessment for outdoor learning activities can be found [here](#).

## Facilities

There are toilet and baby changing facilities onsite.

Snacks for children are not included but during each session there will be a story and an opportunity for the children to have a drink and snack so you may wish to bring something suitable for your child.

Food may sometimes be provided as part of the Nature Tots activity, please let us know on the booking form if your child has any dietary or allergy requirements.

For allergen information: Please note that there are sometimes cats present at the site; in the inside areas there may be traces of peanut. Please ask about any other allergen concerns you have.

Please let us know on the booking form if any of the children or accompanying adult have any access needs.

## What to wear

Children (and adults) should be dressed appropriately for the weather. We go outside come rain or shine. If the weather is heavy rain, cold or windy, we have shelter in the Forest School copse outside. We will assess the site and weather conditions each morning, if it is deemed too dangerous (storms or high winds) we will cancel the session, refunds will be paid accordingly, or sessions rescheduled. Children should wear clothes suitable for messy play. It is advisable to bring a change of clothes in case your child gets wet or muddy to prevent them getting cold or uncomfortable. Bringing a spare pair of socks is always a good idea!



Puddle fun!

## Cost and booking

All prices listed are inclusive of VAT, sessions can be booked on Eventbrite and are subject to booking fee. Links to Eventbrite booking are found on page 4.

**Taster session:** You can join for your first session as a free taster. You must still book on for your taster session. There are usually three 'taster session' tickets available for each session, this varies depending on how many other children are booked. Taster sessions are on a first come, first served basis. You may only book a taster session once. Taster sessions are for 1 adult and up to 3 children. If after your first free taster session you wish to come back to Nature Tots, you must book one of the below two options.

**Half termly rate:** The cost is £48.00 per six-week half termly sessions. If you would like to join mid-way through a half term, you can pay £48.00 for the remaining sessions, pay the **Pay as you go** rate for each remaining session, or wait until the new half term begins. There is a sibling discount rate of £33.00 which is available for siblings of a full paying child. Siblings under 18 months accompanying a full paying child are free.

If you cannot attend a session, please let us know by emailing Abi on [amarch@wildlondon.org.uk](mailto:amarch@wildlondon.org.uk) or Dhush on [dselvarajah@wildlondon.org.uk](mailto:dselvarajah@wildlondon.org.uk) so the Forest School leader who is running the session knows how many people to expect. If you miss a session you will not be reimbursed, nor can you carry that session over to the following term.

This option is advised if you know you can make at least four of the sessions during the half term as it is more cost effective.

**Pay as you go rate:** The cost is £12.00 per session to attend sessions on an ad-hoc basis. The cost for additional siblings is £9.00. Siblings under 18 months accompanying a full paying child are free.

If you have booked a session but then cannot attend, please cancel through Eventbrite on the link on your booking confirmation. Pay as you go tickets can be refunded up to 1 day before the session you have booked. If you do not cancel in advance we cannot refund the ticket, nor can the ticket be used for another session. **There are up to six PAYG places available per session, this number is reduced as the number of half term places are booked, at times there may be no PAYG places available if all other places are booked.**

This option is advised if you know you cannot attend at least three of the sessions during the half term as it will work out cheaper than paying for the full half term.

## On the day

Please meet at the Outdoor Classroom Area (map and directions on page 5) at 10.00am. There is plenty of space to bring buggies and scooters.



Leaf art



Bird spotting



Bread making

## Nature Tots dates for 2023

### Mondays

Spring	Summer
<b>Spring Term 1</b>	<b>Summer Term 1</b>
<del>2</del> January (bank hol)	17 April
9 January	24 April
16 January	<del>1</del> May (bank hol)
23 January	8 May
30 January	15 May
6 February	22 May
<b>1 week break</b>	<b>1 week break</b>
<b>Spring Term 2</b>	<b>Summer Term 2</b>
20 February	5 June
27 February	12 June
6 March	21 June
13 March	26 Jun3
20 March	3 July
27 March	10 July
<b>2 week break</b>	<b>Break for summer</b>

### Fridays

Spring	Summer
<b>Spring Term 1</b>	<b>Summer Term 1</b>
6 January	21 April
13 January	28 April
20 January	5 May
27 January	12 May
3 February	19 May
10 February	26 May
<b>1 week break</b>	<b>1 week break</b>
<b>Spring Term 2</b>	<b>Summer Term 2</b>
24 February	9 June
3 March	16 June
10 March	23 June
17 March	30 June
24 March	7 July
31 March	14 July
<b>2 week break</b>	<b>Break for summer</b>

\*Please note the price for Mondays **Spring 1** and **Summer 1** is £40 due to the bank holidays

## Links to all Nature Tots booking pages for 2023

The web page addresses below are all clickable links

	Mondays	Fridays
<b>Spring 1 Jan-Feb 23</b>	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/490433107627">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/490433107627</a>	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/487570274817">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/487570274817</a>
<b>Spring 2 Feb-Mar 23</b>	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/492580831527">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/492580831527</a>	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/487571287847">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/487571287847</a>
<b>Summer 1 Apr-May 23</b>	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/492595595687">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/492595595687</a>	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/487573193547">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/487573193547</a>
<b>Summer 2 Jun-Jul 23</b>	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/492597330877">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/492597330877</a>	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/487856450777">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/487856450777</a>
<b>Pay As You Go &amp; Taster Sessions Jan 23 - Jul 23</b>	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/487559803497">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/487559803497</a>	



## **About Walthamstow Wetlands**

Walthamstow Wetlands is a 211-hectare site comprising ten reservoirs that provide drinking water for London and which are internationally recognised for their importance for migrating birds – particularly overwintering wildfowl.

The Victorian-era Engine House hosts a fully accessible visitor centre with a café, shop, interactive displays, viewing platform, toilets, and art installations. In addition, a unique 'swift tower' has been built, in the shape of the original chimney, to house nesting swifts and roosting bats.

For more information about Walthamstow Wetlands visit <https://www.wildlondon.org.uk/nature-reserves/walthamstow-wetlands>

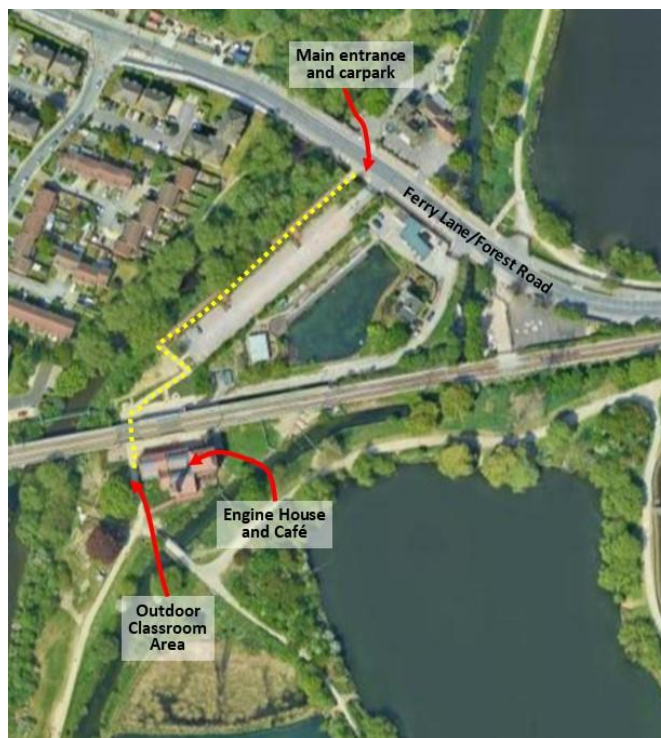
## **Location and Transport**

**Address:** 2 Forest Road, N17 9NH

**Entrances:** There are four entrances:

- The **main entrance** is on Ferry Lane/Forest Road
- The other entrance on the south side is at Coppermill Lane next to Walthamstow Marshes
- On the north side of the Wetlands, there is an entrance opposite the car park on Ferry Lane/Forest Road
- The other entrance on the north side is at Lockwood Way, off Blackhorse Lane

**Access:** Enter the site from the **main entrance** on Ferry Lane/Forest Road. Follow the path around and under the rail bridge. Keep the Engine House building on your left and continue following the path round. The small wooden gate on the right is the entrance to the Outdoor Classroom area.



The Engine House and main concrete pathway through the site are accessible for wheelchair users, those with walking difficulties and those with buggies. As a nature reserve the remaining pathways on the wetlands site are dirt track so may be uneven or muddy in places. The Engine House has a platform lift and there are accessible toilets with ramp entry.

**By Tube:** The nearest tube stations are Tottenham Hale and Blackhorse Road.

The main entrance is a seven minute walk from Tottenham Hale station (Victoria line tube) and a ten minute walk from Blackhorse Road station (Victoria line tube and Overground line).

**By Bus:** Regular bus services 123 and 230 stop outside Walthamstow Wetlands, at the Ferry Boat Inn bus stop. Please see the TfL website for bus timetables.

**By Bike:** Bring a lock for your bike, and please ask a staff member and they will show you where bikes can be safely parked.

**By Car:** There is limited car parking on site. The car park is open daily between 9.30am to 4.00pm. Parking charges start from £2 for up to one hour. There are bays set aside for parking for blue badge holders which are free of charge.