

Nature Tots Forest School at Walthamstow Wetlands

Information Pack 2024-25

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) the session will go ahead but will take place indoors. 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.

Termly rate: The cost is £120.00 per twelve-week term. If there becomes availability to join part-way through the term, you can attend the remaining sessions and will be issued a ticket for your total sessions at £12.00 per session. There is a sibling discount rate of £78.00 which is available for siblings of a full paying child (£9.00 for a single session). Siblings under 18 months accompanying a full paying child are free. Sibling tickets are not available to book online, please contact Sophie at sharris@wildlondon.org.uk if you would like to book any siblings into the programme.

If you cannot attend a session, please let us know by emailing Sophie at sharris@wildlondon.org.uk or Dhush on 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.

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 2024-2025

Mondays (10am-12pm)

Autumn	Spring	Summer*
16 September	6 January	28 April
23 September	13 January	5 May (Bank Hol)
30 September	20 January	12 May
7 October	27 January	19 May
14 October	3 February	
21 October	10 February	
1 week break	1 week break	1 week break

4 November 11 November 18 November 25 November 2 December 9 December	24 February 3 March 10 March 17 March 24 March 31 March	2 June 9 June 16 June 23 June 30 June 7 July 14 July
3 week break	3 week break	Break for summer

*Please note the price for Mondays **Summer term is £100** due to the bank holidays – only 10 weeks instead of 12.

Fridays (10am-12pm)

Autumn	Spring	Summer*
13 September 20 September 27 September 4 October 11 October 18 October	10 January 17 January 24 January 31 January 7 February 14 February	25 April 2 May 9 May 16 May 23 May
2-week break	1 week break	1 week break
8 November 15 November 22 November 29 November 6 December 13 December	28 February 7 March 14 March 21 March 28 March 4 April	6 June 13 June 20 June 27 June 4 June 11 July 18 July
3-week break	2-week break	Break for summer

*Please note the Summer Friday sessions will run for 5 weeks before midterm, then 7 weeks after.

Links to all Nature Tots booking pages for 2024-25

The web page addresses below are all clickable links

	Mondays	Fridays
Autumn Sept-Dec 24	https://www.eventbrite.com/e/918891056887?aff=oddtcreator	https://www.eventbrite.com/e/918935921077?aff=oddtcreator
Spring Jan-Apr 25	https://www.eventbrite.com/e/946435111897?aff=oddtcreator	https://www.eventbrite.com/e/946455272197?aff=oddtcreator
Summer Apr-Jul 25	https://www.eventbrite.com/e/946462684367?aff=oddtcreator	https://www.eventbrite.com/e/946467970177?aff=oddtcreator



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>

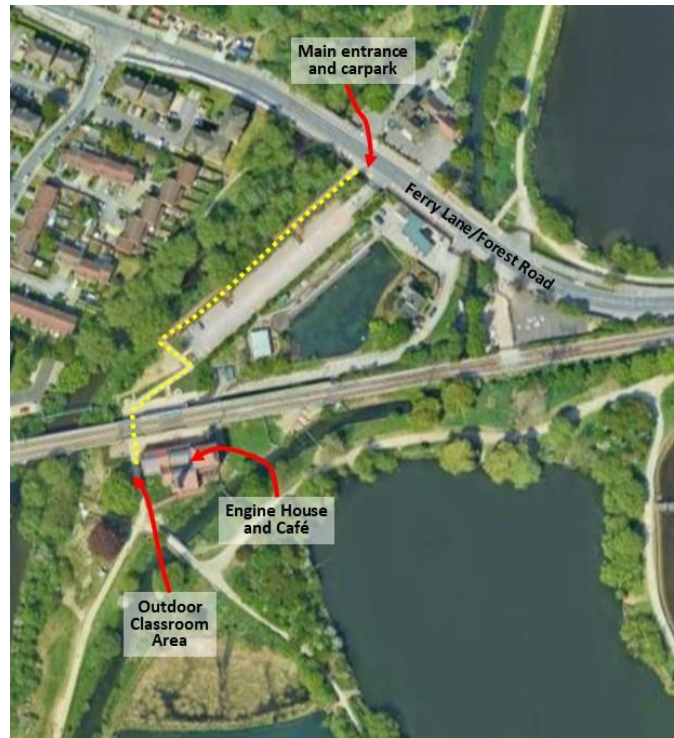
Location and Transport

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.