

## Forest School Announcement: 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021



We are delighted to share with you that St. Mary of the Angels is now a Forest School in partnership with Sayers Croft Urban Nature Space at Paddington Recreation Ground. Over the course of the academic year each Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 class will have six half day visits to the Urban Nature Space to take part in Forest School.

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 themes 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

The dates/times for each class are as follows and your child's class teacher will be writing to you with more information and to seek consent prior to the first visit.

Y1/2 Goldfinches	12.11.21	13.12.21	14.01.22	31.03.22	26.05.22	15.07.22	9.30-11.30am
Y2 Kingfishers	12.11.21	13.12.21	14.01.22	31.03.22	26.05.22	15.07.22	1-3pm
Y3/4 Swifts	05.11.21	06.12.21	07.02.22	28.03.22	23.05.22	11.07.22	9.30-11.30am
Y4 Kestrels	05.11.21	06.12.21	07.02.22	28.03.22	23.05.22	11.07.22	1-3pm
Y5 Herons	17.09.21	10.12.21	07.01.22	25.02.22	22.04.22	10.06.22	9.30-11.30am
Y5/6 Swans	17.09.21	10.12.21	07.01.22	25.02.22	22.04.22	10.06.22	1-3pm

We will be organising some equally exciting adventures in nature for our pupils in Foundation Stage for later on in the academic year which we look forward to sharing with you very soon.