



AFTER-SCHOOL INFORMATION

COLLABORATE. EXPERIMENT. INNOVATE.

Introduction



Here at **Wild about Play**, our motto is 'Nurture in Nature'. We believe that children develop and grow best in an outdoor, natural environment, free to explore, create and shape their education. Our practitioners are highly-regarded and fully-qualified in early years, primary and outdoor education. We combine child-led play with dynamic, interactive activities that help further children physically, socially and cognitively. Using a variety of forest school philosophies and neuroscience studies, our sessions challenge and inspire collaboration with others and taking risks without the fear of failure.

Dates and Times

Our after-school sessions are running on Wednesdays from 3:30pm-5:30pm, including pick-up from local schools St Mary's, All Saints and Oasis Academy.

What to Expect

We provide children the opportunity to decompress from a day indoors, with the freedom to explore and create without the pressure that a school day brings. We incorporate free play with more focused curriculum deriving from the 6 C's - collaboration, communication, creative innovation, content, critical thinking and confidence. From foraging and exploring the local area, to learning how to safely use tools and equipment to build and create eco-friendly habitats, our after-school sessions focus on building social and natural skills to benefit children for the rest of their lives. Our educators provide parents with an update on their child's development at the end of each term.



Location

Our sessions will be launching from our brand-new base camp on the roof of Oasis Academy, Putney, with direct access to Putney Common and Woods.

Parking & Transport

There is parking by the school. Alternatively, the number 22 bus which you can get from the New Kings Road or Putney Bridge stops opposite the school. Other buses are 265 which stop close to Putney Common (this is the bus stop after the Festing Road one).

Kit

If they can do outdoor forest schools in Scandinavia, we can survive it in South West London! As they say, “there’s no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing!”. You can find our summer kit list [here](#), and our winter kit list [here](#).

COVID-19 Precautions

The safety of our staff and explorers is of the utmost importance to us. We are constantly monitoring the situation to ensure that we are providing the best environment possible. We have implemented a multitude of procedures, which include extra handwashing and sanitizing areas and a streamlined pick-up/drop-off process. Our practitioners have been promoting the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach with the children to minimise the risk of exposure. Outdoor play provides children with a stronger immune system, and there is less risk of the spread of viruses when outside, which is why many governments, including Scotland, have been promoting the importance of learning outdoors. We have a COVID-19 risk assessment which is updated weekly – if you’d like a copy, please let us know and we’d be happy to provide it.

Food

Due to COVID-19, we are not currently supplying snacks during our sessions. We ask that you pack snacks and a clearly labelled water bottle for each session. We will refill water bottles as necessary.

Why Outdoor Play?

Aside from physical fitness, outdoor play and education has innumerable benefits. Here are some of them.

- **Social skills and empathy:** ‘Learning by doing’ in the outdoors stimulates our brain activity and helps contribute to collaborative learning skills (2017 Loughborough University study).
- **Enhanced creativity, concentration and motivation for learning** (Feb 2018 Psychology Today).
- **Connection to each other and nature:** Gives an important sense of belonging to each other and their natural environment (April 2018 Woodland Trust).
- **Stress management:** Repeated interaction and connection with nature reduces cortisol levels especially in young people (09 Feb 2018 Psychology Today).
- **Confidence and independence:** Time, space and freedom to think and develop with the help of specialised practitioners working with tools and learning to negotiate risk (June 2018 – Salmon talk to leaders of the Forest School Movement).

Testimonials

Don't just take our word for it! Take a look at what our parents have been saying about us.

- “My son loves his after-school sessions and is particularly inspired by materials sourced from nature to design and make craft projects at **WaP** - an activity he really enjoys.”
- “My son loves **WaP** and I love him going! All the staff are highly experienced with children and combine helping their development with having a lot of fun outdoors. He gives each member of staff a hug before leaving and often doesn't want to come home.”
- “My son loves the **Wild about Play** preschool sessions, he learns so much through play and loves his educators”

