

Little
FOREST FRIENDS
Pre-School
@ Haddenham St Marys



Let the Magic Begin

The ethos of forest schools is child-led learning. It helps children's self-esteem, confidence and independence. We do that by making sure that everything we do at Little Forest Friends is a small, achievable task that is tailored to each individual child.

Little Forest Friends supports children through the process of taking small risks but allowing them to do so in a safe environment with experienced staff. The children connect with nature; get the fresh air and exercise they need; develop their communication, imagination and thinking skills; build their confidence and resilience; and, most importantly, have lots of fun.



*“Nature is our greatest teacher”
Edna Walling*

Little Forest Friends at Haddenham St Mary's CE School sits within our beautiful rural village setting. Children have constant access to the forest school and a large field, as well as a warm and well equipped 'Eco Lodge.'

We follow the core Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework and incorporate learning in a safe and secure outdoor environment, where free play, fresh air, exposure to the natural world and physical activity are an integral part of learning. Whilst promoting the great outdoors, children have free flow play between the Eco Lodge and forest school area. We work with the children and parents to offer a smooth transition into our Reception Year.

As an Eco School with Green Flag status, Haddenham St Mary's CE school, created a building which was sustainable. The Eco Lodge has been created with sustainability in mind. It is solar powered and harvests rainwater through an eco friendly drainage system. The Eco Lodge is a unique building constructed from recycled and reclaimed materials.



We provide children with the opportunity to spend their pre-school days in a natural environment surrounded by nature, rather than in a nursery classroom, experiencing the seasons first hand and developing their innate curiosity and love of learning.

The children are encouraged to explore, investigate and learn from different materials, mediums and situations, whilst learning to negotiate and co-operate with adults and other children during their time here.

We believe being outdoors is the most wonderful, magical place for children to learn and develop.



Activities

The children take part in a huge variety of activities, such as building dens, making leaf pictures, tree climbing, creating fantasy worlds, cooking on open fires, and caring for the environment, as well as having plenty of opportunity for free exploration of the woodland alongside experienced child-centred staff.

Each session is planned by a qualified practitioner, making sure that all areas of the EYFS Curriculum is covered in a safe environment. All our activities are thoroughly risk assessed before every session.

Adventure starts here

Early Learning Goals

Little Forest School follows the curriculum guidance for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), which is organised into 7 areas of learning.

Our activities are carefully planned so that we cover all the EYFS Curriculum and we treat each child as an individual and plan for them accordingly.

We encourage parents to work alongside us to help ensure the very best development for their child.

All children are supported in developing their potential at their own pace. We plan our curriculum to ensure that it is tailored to the needs of each individual child. Children can choose from lots of continuous provision activities, and the Little Forest Friends staff interact with them to develop their knowledge and extend their learning appropriately. We offer a curriculum, which leads to nationally approved learning outcomes and prepares children to progress with confidence to the National Curriculum.

Personal, social
and emotional
development

Communication
and language
development

Literacy

Mathematics

Understanding
the world

Expressive arts &
design

Physical
development

Little Forest Friends sessions

Morning 3 hours 8.55am to 11.55am
Afternoon 3 hours 8.55am to 2.55pm
Full day 6 hours 8.55am to 2.55pm

We offer 15 or 30 hours funded or non-funded places at the setting.

Non funded hours can be paid with Childcare vouchers, tax free childcare or online payments through the online payment system, ParentPay.

Fees as per the Schedule of fees policy.

Hot meals

We offer all our children the option to have a fresh and nutritional hot meal. All meals are made fresh on-site in the school kitchen. Parents will be able to view menus and allergen lists before booking the days they would like their child to have a hot meal. Bookings and payment can be made online on a half termly basis.

Hot meals include a main and a dessert.

Hot meals will be charged at £2.50 per meal per day.

Parents can also provide their child with a packed lunch if they wish to do so.

Happy Hedgehogs club – wraparound care

The before and after school club, Happy Hedgehogs, is situated within Haddenham St Mary's CE school.

Example of after school club activities include Lego club, Traditional Games, Dance Club, Art and Crafts, Cinema night.

All children can participate in the activity club; however, this is not mandatory and there will be a range of colouring, board games and other activities available for those who do not wish to participate.

Children who attend Little Forest Friends can join from 3 years of age.

Any new children aged 3 or 4 joining Little Forest Friends for the first time can join from their second day with us as this helps with their settling in transition.

Sessions

Breakfast club is open from 8am to 9am including a breakfast. Breakfast is served between 8am to 8.30am.

Afternoon half session 3pm to 4.30pm including fruit snack.

Afternoon full session 3pm to 6pm including fruit snack and light tea.

Rates are as per the schedule of fees.

The setting is open Monday to Friday in school term time. We welcome children from the age of two years old, offering staff to child ratio 1:5 2 years and 1:8 3 and 4 years.

We have a limited number of places available at any one time. Our main intakes will be in September. From time to time places do open up mid-term e.g. relocation, change to sessions. In this situation we will offer a place to the next child on our waiting list.

Our waiting lists operate on a first-come, first-served basis with places allocated depending on the days requested and availability. Full details available within the Admission and Fees policy.

Any questions and enquiries can be emailed to littleforestfriends@haddenham-st-marys.bucks.sch.uk or call 01844 291455.

To waitlist your child for a place at the setting, please email waiting list form from the school website to littleforestfriends@haddenham-st-marys.bucks.sch.uk



“The best classroom is roofed only by the sky” Margaret McMillan (1919)

