



Creative Roots – Outdoor Learning
Mike's Meadow, Northend, Batheaston, Bath
www.creative-roots.org

PARENT'S HANDBOOK 2022/2023



“We believe that regular time outdoors, play and connection with nature are fundamental parts of education, at every stage, for every child and young person,” explained Creative Roots founder Dominika Baran. “Our mission is to inspire and enable positive outdoor experiences. In so doing, we encourage a greater appreciation of the natural environment. “

Mike's Meadow offers a wonderful location for a Woodland Holiday Club, with an underground tunnel as well as orchard, meadow with naturally build straw bale classroom with compost toilet and wood-burner. It's a child dream. The children have a range of activities to choose from and time for free play in an exciting, open-ended environment with a mud kitchen, sandpit, playhouse and shelter.

Our Group Leaders

Creative Roots – Outdoor Learning is meeting EYFS statutory requirements regarding staff. Our staff are qualified to the appropriate levels as required by Ofsted. Any supply staff/volunteers used have all undergone rigorous interview and selection procedures. They may be called in from time to time due to staff sickness or training.

Our leaders are experienced Forest School teachers, Steiner Early Years teachers. Our unique learning and play approach are inspired by Forest School and Waldorf /Steiner pedagogy. All our staff have DBS enhanced checks, Child Protection & Safeguarding Training, and Outdoor First Aid.

Health & Safety Officer – Dominika Baran

First Aid Officer – Dominika Baran/Lena Leszczyc

Child Protection Officers –Dominika Baran

Legal Structure

Creative Roots – Outdoor Learning is Ofsted registered childcare provider on the Early Years Register, the compulsory part of the Childcare Register and the voluntary part of the Childcare Register.

Ofsted Registration number 2659127.

Admissions

Please email your child registration form as well as consent form to us before the club starts.

We are operating as a Nut Free holiday club.

Woodland Holiday Club is able to take up to 15 children daily during Banes half terms and holidays aged 4-11years old.

Opening & Closing Times

Woodland Holiday Club will be open Monday to Friday
Sessions run from 9.30 – 3.30pm

Please take Bath traffic under consideration when planning the journey. We are recommending to us Batheaston toll bridge - £1 fee each way. Cleveland Bridge is still not fully open and therefore you might get delay in traffic but it really depend on the day.

Drop off and Pick up

Parents are expected to bring their children at 9:30am. Punctuality and prompt drop-offs are very important to the smooth running of the session. Parents are to drop-off their children down the driveway at Mike's Meadow. When collecting their children, parents are expected to arrive at 3pm.

WHAT TO WEAR :

There's a saying in the outdoor world: there's no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing. Learning can only happen when we are comfortable, so please ensure your child is set up for success!

Waterproof clothing all season!!!

Summer

- Waterproofs
- One pair of comfortable trousers (jogging bottoms or leggings)
- One t-shirt, light long sleeved t-shirt
- One fleecy zip up jacket (in a backpack just in case)
- One pair of socks
- Wellies or sturdy closed toe shoes (which you don't mind getting wet and muddy!)
- A sun hat for sunny days
- Spare trousers & socks in backpacks
- Sun screen applied before the session

Spring / Autumn

- Waterproofs
- One pair of comfortable trousers (jogging bottoms or leggings)
- One long sleeved t-shirt or top
- One thick jumper
- One fleecy zip up jacket (in the backpack, just in case)
- Two pairs of socks. On the bottom, one thin cotton sock, and the top, a thick wool or fluffy bed sock
- Wellies or sturdy closed toe shoes (which you don't mind getting wet and muddy!)
- Spare trousers & socks in backpacks

Winter

- Waterproofs
- Base layer – thermals
- Next bottom layer – fleece or other warm tracksuit bottoms
- First top layer – long sleeve t-shirt or thin jumper
- Second top layer – fleece jumper
- Third top layer – fleece jacket
- Neck scarf
- Hat and gloves
- Four pairs of socks. Two pairs to wear (on the bottom, one thin cotton sock, and the top, a thick wool or fluffy bed sock) and two spare pairs to be packed in the backpack
- Extra Jumpers to be packed in backpack for really cold days
- Snow boots or sturdy warm outdoor boots

Parking

There is on street Parking along Northend road and can be problematic at time. Please be mindful of our neighbours and don't gather in front of their driveway. Photos of the entrance to Mike's Meadow and house just next to it.



What to Bring for Your Child

a complete change of waterproof outdoor clothes suitable for the season.
fully equipped backpack which needs to include a morning snack, lunch a bottle of water, a hat and hand sanitizer, spare mug.

Snacks & Lunches

Snack and lunch are provided by parents.

Drinks: Please bring water bottle – we will have water on the site for top ups.

Communication

It is our aim to ensure the welfare and happiness of your child at all times. This is achieved by working together in close partnership. If you have any concerns about your child or if there is anything at home which may be unsettling them, please discuss this with your Group Leaders.

Day-to-day concerns can be communicated between parents and group leaders through text message, email or during conversations at pick-up time.

Policy Summaries

Full policy documents are available to access on our website <https://creative-roots.org/policies/>

Confidentiality

Creative Roots Outdoor Learning is committed to developing creative and positive ways for the child's voice to be heard whilst recognising the responsibility to use, hold and safeguard information received.

Safeguarding Children / Child Protection

All our staff and volunteers has a responsibility in relation to child protection (CP). In most cases this will be the referral of concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Officer. In day-to-day contact with children at risk, staff have an opportunity to note concerns and to meet with parents/carers. Child abuse is a term used to describe ways in which someone often in a position of power harms children. It is not the responsibility of staff to decide whether child abuse is occurring but we are required to act on any safeguarding concerns and report it to the Social Care Team. The health, safety and protection of a child are paramount.

Health & Safety

Creative Roots – Outdoor Learning will ensure that all areas of its undertaking are subjected to a suitable risk assessment to identify potential hazards and to introduce control measures to eliminate or reduce harm.

It is our policy to make provisions for first aid in accordance with the Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981. All accidents and incidents or 'near misses' with the potential for injury (whether that injury actually occurred or not) are reported and recorded in the incident/ accident book and parents informed.

Creative roots – Outdoor Learning has established a fire safety programme with the objective of guarding against the outbreak of fire and to ensure, in so far as is reasonably practicable, the safety of persons on the site in the event of the outbreak of fire or other emergencies.

Concerns and Complaints

Whilst we work hard to ensure we abide by our principles of respect, recognition and positivity we understand that concerns, disagreements and/or conflict can occur between parents and staff. Please see our website for our full Complaints Procedure: <https://creative-roots.org/policies/>

If you have completed our complaints procedure and you are unsatisfied with the outcome then you can contact Ofsted who have a complaints procedure. See here for details:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted/about/complaints-procedure>

Ofsted
Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD
Phone no: 0300 123 1231

If your concern or complaint is related to safeguarding and you have a very valid concern that a child has been abused by a member of staff then you can contact the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) on 01225 396810 yourself. The LADO will then guide the parent through the next steps.

Further Information

Thank you for taking the time to read this Parent Handbook in preparation for your child/ren attending Woodland Holiday Club.

If you have any further questions please speak to the Group Leaders or contact the administrator at info@creative-roots.org