

SCHOOL FOCUS

FOREST SCHOOL CELEBRATION AT ROEHAMPTON CHURCH FOREST SCHOOL

On Friday 6 September, Roehampton Church Forest School celebrated the official status, new name and opening of their Forest School. Bishop Martin, Fleur Anderson MP and Colin Cooper, Chief Executive (Wandsworth and Putney Commons), were welcomed by staff, children, families, Headteacher, Lynn Anderson, and governors for this special occasion.

In the church service, led by Bishop Martin, the whole school community reflected on the awe and wonder of God's world and our connection with creation. Prayers, songs and readings all acclaimed the beauty and inspiring opportunities of nature. As well as contributions from pupils at Roehampton Church Forest School, the congregation heard from Noor Al-Yassin, Early Years Leader, about the joy and learning some children in Nursery, Reception and Year Six had already experienced in the forest school. Guests and Governors spoke about the enthusiasm for, and the benefits of, the new forest school.

The service concluded with the whole school and visitors coming together in the new forest school classroom for prayer and a blessing from Bishop Martin, who encouraged us all to 'be among God's creation. Treasure it. Learn from it'.

Fleur Anderson MP, who read the gospel, shared: 'There are so many opportunities in connecting children to the heath and nature through the forest school, including to their health. This is a fantastic initiative by the school'.

This year, Roehampton Church Forest School will be delivering Forest School learning across all year groups. Staff and governors are very excited about this great opportunity for all the children and their parents/carers. The school will provide a fully inclusive and engaging forest school experience, with exciting outdoor learning opportunities. Carefully planned by Level 3 trained Forest School staff, sessions develop, compliment and extend the curriculum.

The Forest School makes the most of a hands-on approach, encouraging children to make decisions, work as a team, and to take risks, with certain boundaries. Along with the curriculum, values and ethos, the principles of the Forest School extend children's resilience, social development, self-esteem, confidence and self-reliance, through creative engagement with the natural world.



Bishop Martin with pupils from Roehampton Church School, Fleur Anderson MP, Colin Cooper, The Rev Joshua Rey, Noor Al-Yassin and members of the Putney Heath Rangers.

SEPTEMBER PRAYERS FOR SCHOOL LEADERS

Matthew Wills, Eltham C of E School, Greenwich

Amanda Wilson, St Alfege with St Peter's C of E School

Claire Harrison and Victoria Wainwright, Christ Church C of E School, Greenwich

Anna Sullivan Greenwich, St Margaret's C of E School, Plumstead

Anne-Marie Bahlol, Christ Church C of E School, Shooter's Hill, Greenwich

Matthew Harris, Bishop John Robinson C of E School, Greenwich

Victoria Wainwright and Claire Harrison St Mary Magdalene C of E School, Greenwich

Jason Benn and Marvin Riley, St Mary Magdalene (Secondary), Greenwich

Patrick Williams, St John's C of E School, Angell Town, Lambeth

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