

Alice Holt Forestry Commission

School Visits

Foundation and Primary Age Children



Introduction

At Alice Holt Woodland Park we offer school children of all ages an exciting and educational day out. In addition to the more obvious opportunities for learning in science and geography, visits to Alice Holt also offer scope for work in other subjects both during and after the visit. Pupils can, for example, use their experiences at Alice Holt as a basis for language work (speaking, listening, and writing), music, art, PSHE and citizenship. Within the programmes offered there is a great deal of flexibility to meet the needs of a wide age range and activities are planned to suit your class. If you need a special programme we will do our best to provide it for you and preliminary visits from teachers are welcomed.

Through all our programmes of study we aim to heighten children's awareness and understanding of the world around them. We hope they will learn to appreciate the importance of trees and forests to people, animals and the future of our world, particularly in relation to climate change and sustainability. Children are encouraged to make links between their experiences and learning at Alice Holt and their everyday lifestyles, and to develop a sense of responsibility for the world in which they live.



Foundation Stage

Welcome to the Woods

Suitable for Nursery and Reception classes. *Links with DfEE Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation Stage-Knowledge and understanding of the world; Communication, language and literacy; Mathematical development.*

This is a half day programme which provides young children with an introduction to the trees, plants and animals found in a wood. An introductory poem or story is followed by a walk in the forest and the visit concludes with a short art and craft session on a woodland theme. On the walk the children take part in a range of activities which encourage them to look closely at their surroundings and to make discoveries for themselves, making good use of the senses of sight, hearing, smell and touch. On visits during the summer when a picnic is planned after the activities, teddies may be brought on the visit and introduced to the woods, too.

Key stages 1 & 2

Super Sensations

Ideal for Years R-4 but also suitable for Years 5-6. *National Curriculum Links - KS1- Science, Art and Design, English, Music, D+T, Maths; KS2-Art and Design, Science, English, Music, D+T, Maths; QCA Schemes of Work -Art and Design Units 1B 'Investigating materials' 2B 'Mother Nature, Designer'; Science Units 1A 'Ourselves' and 1D 'Light and Dark', 2C 'Variation', 3B 'Investigating Patterns'.*

Through games and activities which make full use of the senses, children learn about the life of the forest. Activities can include a blindfold trail, searching for objects with different properties, making a scent collection, listening to sounds in the forest, looking for signs of wildlife, observational drawing and much more. The work of environmental artists can also be considered and children can create their own 'sculptures'.



Key stages 1 & 2

Tremendous Trees

Suitable for Years 1-6. *National Curriculum Links - KS1-Science, Maths, English, KS2- Science, Maths, English; QCA Schemes of Work - Science Unit 1B 'Growing plants', Unit 1D 'Light and Dark', Unit 2C 'Variation', Unit 2B 'Plants and Animals in the Local Environment', Unit 3B 'Helping Plants Grow Well', Unit 5B 'Life Cycles'.*

This programme focuses on the life processes of trees and other plants and on their importance to people, animals and the environment. Activities are chosen to enable pupils to consider seasonal factors affecting the forest at the time of their visit e.g. flowering and pollination, fruiting and seed dispersal. Factors influencing rates of growth are identified and evidence of differential growth is investigated. The range of animal habitats provided by trees may also be considered in this programme.



Key stages 1 & 2

Team Tactics

Suitable for Years 5 and above. *National Curriculum Links* - KS2-PSHE, PE, (English, Maths, Geography and Science possible in orienteering); KS3 -PSHE, Citizenship, PE; KS4-PSHE, Citizenship, PE (introduction to large scale outdoor and adventurous activities); *QCA Schemes of Work*-PE Units 19 and 20.

Team Tactics provides children with challenges which require team work and involve taking note of other people's ideas. In groups they take part in a series of progressively more challenging activities appropriate to their age and ability. Orienteering in small groups and shelter building are offered as part of the programme and schools may choose one or both of these activities.



Key stages 1 & 2

Forest Homes

Suitable for Years R-6. *National Curriculum Links* - KS1-Science, English, Maths, PSHE and Citizenship, Music, Art; KS2-Science, English, Maths, PSHE and Citizenship, Music, Art; *QCA Schemes of Work* - Science Unit 1A 'Ourselves', Unit 1D 'Light and dark', Unit 2B 'Plants and animals in the local environment', Unit 2C 'Variation', Unit 4B 'Habitats', Unit 6A 'Interdependence and adaptation'.

This programme provides children with an opportunity to discover that the forest is a home for a variety of wildlife. They are encouraged to notice that there are many different habitats in a forest each with different plants and animals and to understand that some creatures can live in a range of habitats within the forest. Children undertake practical tasks and play educational games which teach them about the wildlife of the woods and help them to understand the relationships between plants and animals in a habitat (food chains and webs). Drama, data collection and organisation, and art work can also be incorporated into the visit.



Key stages 1 & 2

Saxons Alive

Suitable for KS2. *National Curriculum Links* - KS2 - History, Geography, Art, English, PSHE and Citizenship; *QCA Schemes of Work* - History Unit 6B 'What was life like at the time the person in the Sutton Hoo grave lived'.

This is a full day programme which brings the Anglo-Saxons to life and makes an ideal starting point or conclusion to a study of this period. The children become Saxons for a day and experience something of what it was like to be a child in Saxon times. There are games to play, skills to learn, such as hurdle making and other things that were a part of everyday life, and riddles and runes to read and write and it's great fun!





Key stages 1 & 2

Fantastic Forests and Wonderful Words

Suitable for years 1-6. *National Curriculum Links - KS1-English, Art and Design, Science, PSHE and Citizenship; KS2-English, Art and Design, Science, PSHE and Citizenship; QCA Schemes of Work - Art and Design Unit 1B 'Investigating materials', Unit 2B 'Mother Nature, designer'; Science-Unit 2B 'Plants and Animals in the Local Environment, Unit 2C 'Variation'.*

This programme is designed to help children develop a greater sense of wonder and imagination and to inspire them to talk and write about their experiences of the forest. Stories, riddles and poems are features of the day alongside lively outdoor activities. The morning is devoted to discovering the 'real world' wonders of the forest and involves using and creating exciting words to describe it. The afternoon is time for pure fantasy. To set the scene, children are told a traditional or classic story and provided with a little folklore. Outdoor activities include spotting and talking to Ents (Lord of the Rings) or trees which dance at night and children often discover the Minpins' (Roald Dahl) secret artwork. Imaginary forest creatures are often brought to life by the children in the form of sculptures made from natural materials and all the aspects of the day can be brought together through creative writing and drama back at school.

Key stages 1 & 2

Marvellous Maps

Suitable for Years 1-6. *National Curriculum Links-KS1-Geography, Science, English, Maths, PE, PSHE and Citizenship; KS2-Geography, PE, Science, PSHE and Citizenship, English, Maths, Art; QCA Schemes of Work-PE Units 19 and 20.*

Children are first reminded of the many different types of map used for different purposes. Then, on a forest walk, they are taught the importance of observing their surroundings when using a map to find their way. At the same time they learn about the life and work of the forest and record their experiences on their maps. KS1 children create a 'straight line map and KS2 children use a simple map of the forest and develop a key for it. On a full day visit children also take part in a group orienteering challenge appropriate to their age, giving them the opportunity to put their new navigation skills into practice-we haven't lost anyone yet! There is also the 'Tale Trail' option for KS2 which uses maps to record information to be used later in the day for creative language and art work. The day finishes with a performance of the children's work.



Key stages 1 & 2

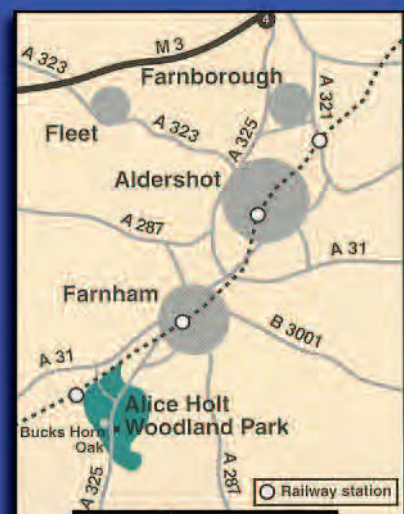
Planet Earth

or alternatively **Amazing Americans**

Suitable for Years 1-6. *National Curriculum Links - KS1-Geography, PSHE and Citizenship, Science, English and others; KS2-Geography, History, PSHE and Citizenship, Science, English and others; QCA Schemes of Work-Geography Unit 8 'Improving the Environment', Citizenship Unit O2 'Choices'.*

This programme is concerned with the importance of looking after our world and conserving natural resources for economic and environmental reasons. This subject can be approached through looking at some of the amazing features of the forest at Alice Holt or alternatively through learning about Native Americans and how they lived in harmony with the environment. Practical outdoor activities and games are used to help children observe and learn about the environment. Children are encouraged to consider their own role in sustaining and improving the quality of the world's environment. Key Stage 2 pupils can take part in a critical thinking activity to highlight the links between our own lifestyles and the state of the environment.

How to find us



For further details

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