

TOP.....! SCHOOL #1 TRIPS

INSIDE

CURIOUS MINDS

Spark a passion
for STEM

OFF TO THE OPERA

Expanding kids'
cultural horizons

ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS

Wild ways to cover
the curriculum

MAGICAL MUSEUMS

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Hello...

Welcome to the first primary-focused issue of *Top School Trips*! You hold in your hands a handy repository of tips, insights and inspiration aimed at anyone wishing to get groups of pupils in Key Stage 1 or 2 learning outside the classroom – in as engaging, and stress-free, a manner as possible, whatever your chosen destination or activity might be.

When you sit down to plan a school visit, that ‘stress-free’ part might seem the hardest to achieve. While our childhood memories of piling onto the coach and setting off for the art gallery/theme park/box factory (depending on how lucky you were) are almost always happy ones, when you’re in charge it can be a very different experience. Neither does it help that with trips, schools are stuck between something of a rock and a hard place: it’s expected that children are taken out on stimulating excursions, but that costs money – and mums and dads aren’t always keen, or able, to give generously when it comes to voluntary contributions. If it weren’t for the unambiguous evidence that experiences away from school support learning and development in a host of ways, you might be tempted to call the whole thing off...

But there’s no denying the benefits, and they apply across the board: whether you’re off to the museum (see page 14), the zoo (see page 80) or even the opera (see page 54); spending a week away on a residential (see page 44) or heading overseas (see page 64), the lessons that children will learn span, and extend beyond, the curriculum, nurturing knowledge and life skills that will stand them in great stead as they move up into secondary education and beyond.

So grab your diary and allow us to help you explore some of the fantastic options out there – by the time you’re finished, you’ll be just as excited as your learners are.

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Contents

Features

6 IDEAS & INSIGHTS

New workshops and research, plus expert advice and topical comment.

9 WHAT MAKES A GREAT WORKSHOP?

The best inspire children and help you wring the maximum educational value from your trip, says Joanne Chamon.

14 SHARING THE MAGIC

The Museums and Schools programme is helping more children explore their cultural heritage...

18 7 SCHOOL TRIP SLIP UPS

Avoiding these classic pitfalls will help you plan for success, says Gill Harvey.

22 AS EASY AS A TO B

Tips on making sure your transportation is trouble-free.

33 GROWING ACTIVE CITIZENS

UK Parliament's outreach programme makes teaching pupils about democracy easy, as Dan Gallacher explains.

44 WHY EVERY CHILD DESERVES A RESIDENTIAL

Learning away can help your pupils develop independence and improve across the curriculum, says Jamie Walls.

54 "WE TOOK YEAR 5 TO SEE MADAME BUTTERFLY"

At Hillstone Primary School a passion for performing arts is being nurtured both in and out of the classroom...

64 HOW TO PLAN YOUR TRIP OVERSEAS

Taking a group of primary pupils abroad needn't be stressful, says Steve Craven.

70 "ACTIVE ADVENTURES OFFER GREAT VALUE"

Investing in trips that get pupils exercising their mental and physical muscles is a real no-brainer, says Eddie Kemsley.

78 SPARK THEIR PASSION FOR STEM

Science, technology, engineering and maths should be explored through real-world experiences, says Lucy Coates.

80 WHAT KIDS LEARN FROM A DAY AT THE ZOO

Getting up-close to animals can be an invaluable educational experience.

82 7 SCHOOL TRIPS YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE CONSIDERED

Reject the traditional and offer your pupils something they weren't expecting...

Partner content

17 WOLLATON HALL

Visit a magnificent Tudor manor that's home to a collection of 750,000 historical objects.

17 NEWSTEAD ABBEY

Allow your pupils to explore a treasure trove of rare and beautiful artefacts.

19 EXPLORE THE MEDIEVAL ERA

Spend a day at Warwick Castle and transport your pupils into England's past.

21 CREATIVE PLAY AND EXPLORATION

Invite your children to learn and play at the LEGOLAND® Windsor Resort.

25 THE INSIDE STORY

Manager Steve Scott tells *TST* about the YMCA's expanding Lakeside centre.

29 EXCITING WAYS TO EXPLORE STEM

An action-packed day of learning, and the thrill of world-class rides...

30 WEST MIDLAND SAFARI PARK

Go wild on a four-mile safari packed with educational opportunities.

31 SCHOOL JOURNEY ASSOCIATION

Five ideas for your primary school's next trip, at home and abroad.

35 EXPLORE THE OCEAN WORLD

Take a trip to Nausicaá and treat your pupils to a voyage of discovery.

36 MANOR HOUSE

A relaxing and fun-filled break with something to suit every interest.

37 ADVENTURE AWAITS WITH ALADDIN

School audiences are falling in love with Disney's smash-hit musical.

39 PGL

Five ways a residential trip will enable your primary school's children to grow.

40 HAVE YOU GOT YOUR TICKETS?

The Birmingham Stage Company has three great shows for schools touring in 2019.

41 UKSA

Take to the water in a host of ways to learn and have fun on the Isle of Wight.

43 YHA

Discover curriculum-linked residentials in stunning locations across England and Wales.

51 "THE GROUP COULDN'T WAIT FOR THEIR VISIT"

Karen King explains why her trip to Monkey World proved a hit with pupils and staff alike.

53 KINGSWOOD

Wherever you're based, look no further for an unforgettable residential.

60 THE OUTWARD BOUND TRUST

Five steps to helping your pupils learn to believe in themselves.

61 STEP INTO STORY CONSTRUCTION

Today's lesson will be storytelling, drama and the magic of fairy tales!

63 "THERE'S SUPPORT AT EVERY STEP"

Discover a world of learning beyond the classroom with the help of NST.

69 YOUR SCHOOL TRIP PACKING LIST

Knowing what not to leave behind is essential to any successful visit abroad...

73 AN ACTIVITY-PACKED DAY FOR ALL

Your class' four hours at KidZania will be fantastic fun and full of learning.

40 Great ideas

10 10 OF THE BEST DAY ATTRACTIONS

Step back in time, take a trip to the theatre, get set for adventure or climb aboard a roller coaster...

26 5 OF THE BEST SEN-FRIENDLY TRIPS

Great options tailored to the requirements of children with special educational needs.

46 10 OF THE BEST ANIMAL ATTRACTIONS

Invite your pupils to get up-close with creatures both domestic and exotic.

56 10 OF THE BEST RESIDENTIALS

Get the most out of your days away by choosing from this selection of first-class providers.

66 5 MUST-HAVE SCHOOL TRIP ACCESSORIES

Don't board the coach without these essential items in your luggage.




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IDEAS & INSIGHTS

From the latest workshops and research, to expert advice and topical comment, get your school trip news right here

What's real, and what's not?

Take on fake news at Madame Tussauds

If you're searching for a topical trip that will challenge and educate your KS2 learners, look no further than 'Fake News and the Media' – a brand new programme available at Madame Tussauds. The workshop is pitched at learners aged 9–13 and has been created in collaboration with education specialists SHAPES for Schools as a reaction to issues around the distortion and misuse of false information and the influence it is having on young people's choices.

The interactive session lasts between 45 minutes and an hour and includes discussion about the link between modern celebrity culture and the media; group work, in which pupils are tasked with categorising news stories by a variety of criteria; and a game that sees the group attempt to identify each other's fake and real tales. Spanning English, PSHE and citizenship and addressing a threat to democracy that we all have a responsibility to combat, it's well worth considering.

More details: You can book your workshop as part of Madame Tussauds London's schools package. Visit www.madametussauds.com/education



"Fake news, folks, fake news."

— DONALD J TRUMP —

New advice from the DfE

Tips on planning safe and successful away days

November saw the release of new guidance from the Department for Education for everyone involved in planning school trips. 'Health and safety on educational visits' is aimed at school employers, heads and teaching staff, and provides advice on a range of topics, from when to seek parental consent, to taking trips abroad and knowing what to do in an emergency.

Commenting on the advice, Gill Harvey, chief executive of

School Travel Forum, welcomed the DfE's recommendations: "The new guidance document is in line with the work that the School Travel Forum, our members and all Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) Quality Badge awarding bodies have been promoting for many years. [We] would advise that all schools take these guidelines into consideration and, when in doubt, look for the LOtC Quality Badge."

Download it now: You can access the DfE's new guidance at bit.do/TSTh-s. Visit the School Travel Forum at www.schooltravelforum.com





Great green spaces

National land management charity the Land Trust has announced its new education strategy, designed to inspire young and old to make more use of green spaces. The organisation will be working in partnership with schools and nurseries in close proximity to any of its 60 sites, investing in new outdoor learning areas and training teachers as forest school practitioners.

NEW RESOURCES:

Schools near the Trust site at Davey Down will benefit from a new education pack produced with the help of Nature-Nurture; more generic packs for schools across the country are set to follow. Visit www.thelandtrust.org.uk

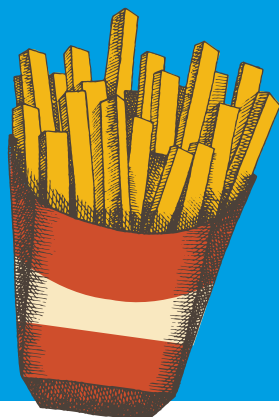
Food fails

Why visitor attractions must do better in the kitchen

If you're planning to rely on the catering at wherever's next on your school trip schedule, you may want to wait until you've taken the time to cast your eyes over the Soil Association's 'Out to Lunch' league table. The list ranks the healthy eating credentials of the UK's top visitor attractions, using information compiled by an "army of secret diner parents"; its key findings include the fact that over-sized puddings are commonplace, pre-packed lunchboxes are often unhealthy, and attractions are frequently less than completely honest about where their food is coming from...

HEALTHY CHOICES:

It's not all bad news, though: the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh, the Eden Project, Chester and Whipsnade Zoos, and the Science Museum all scored highly, and the healthiest options were on average 5p cheaper than the unhealthiest. See the whole list at www.soilassociation.org/ottolunch



Choc full of ideas

Tips on planning safe and successful away days

KS2 visitors to Cadbury World can now take advantage of a one-hour talk on the Maya, which complements a tour of the attraction by detailing the ancient civilisation's involvement in the early history of cocoa. Pupils are introduced to the famous city of Chichen Itza in one of the venue's themed education rooms, learn about Mayan myths and get to see a life-size replica of the Mayan codex (over six metres long) – a few willing volunteers will even get to dress up. Completing the experience is the opportunity to see real cocoa pods and beans. Bringing a big group? No problem, as the session can accommodate up to 110 children.

For more information on educational talks, or to book a trip to Cadbury World, visit www.cadburyworld.co.uk/schools-and-groups

Poetry, please: If you'd rather focus on English, check out Cadbury World's new poetry workshop, which gives students in Years 5 and 6 the chance to work together to pen their own performance poem about a chocolate machine.



Chichen Itza

NEWS IN BRIEF

narrowing focus on testing. To read more, visit bit.do/TSTdc then turn to page 54 to read about how one school is bucking the trend.

attracted some 600,000 visitors (20,000 of whom were school children) and raised nearly £80 million in the process.

DON'T FORGET THEATRE

Children are visiting the theatre less often, and it's leading to audiences becoming more middle class – that's according to acclaimed playwright David Wood. He believes that the drop in the number of schools organising visits for their charges is to blame, pointing to the impact of squeezed budgets and an overly



HOT TICKET

National Museums Liverpool has finally waved goodbye to its Terracotta Warriors exhibition – but not before it had

THE BIG 30

Attracting some 10,000 pupils annually, the Edinburgh International Children's Festival will celebrate its 30th anniversary later this year by showcasing some of the world's best theatre for young people. The programme for 2019 will be unveiled at the end of January – visit www.imagine.org.uk



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What makes a GREAT WORKSHOP?

The best sessions will inspire children and help you wring the maximum educational value from your trip, says **Joanne Chamon** – plus they're great fun too!

I don't know about you but I always learn best by doing or experiencing. You can talk to me, or show me words on a page or a concept in a presentation, but it never resonates in the same way it would if I were actively experiencing it myself. I am a kinaesthetic learner and I am sure this is true for a number of your pupils too. Some children just don't take to learning in the classroom as well as others do; they are simply active learners and will always be most enthused when they have opportunities to get hands-on.

Educational visits are, of course, a brilliant way to do just that. They're ideal for engaging children with a subject or idea, especially those that provide an immersive learning environment. Best of all are those attractions that offer high quality workshops to enhance the experience, introducing a topic you will be teaching in the classroom, or expanding on one you have already started. But what makes a good workshop? What should you look out for when booking one? Here are a few points to consider to ensure you get the maximum educational value out of your next trip.

1 Help them get hands-on

A good educational workshop should provide escapism from the pressures of learning in school. The content and activities included should offer an innovative and exciting way of approaching the topic you are teaching. Ask yourself, "Could I replicate this lesson in the classroom? How is it going the extra mile in educating

my students?" For example, imagine a trip to an aquarium during which your pupils are able to get close to nature with exclusive creature encounters, or a day at a museum where history is brought to life with relics and artefacts from their archives.

2 Look for expertise

Workshops are a great opportunity for pupils to learn from a different person of authority. This in itself can promote self-confidence, as pupils are encouraged to engage, ask questions and embrace what's exciting about the topic they are exploring. Ideally, the speaker should be an expert in their field, for example, a zookeeper at a wildlife park or a professional actor at a live theatrical experience; such individuals will help open your children's minds to the world around them.

3 Enhance their experience

Whether it's taking place at a historic house, theme park, museum or aquarium, it is important that a workshop interlinks with and adds to the trip itself. A workshop before the experience should introduce what's to come and encourage children to reflect as they work their way through the attraction; a session that takes place afterwards, meanwhile, should challenge pupils on what they have learnt from the experience and build on that learning. Ultimately, a workshop will help you understand on-site how your students are benefiting from the trip via the questions they ask and the answers they give during the session.

4 Think value, not cost

Including a workshop in your educational visit may come at a price, so think about how it's helping you. Will it help reduce the pressure of planning on-site educational activities for your pupils? Will the session offer you learning outcomes that will either reinforce or introduce your pupils to a topic? Remember that many workshops will offer lessons that are exclusive to school groups and cannot be experienced as part of a general visit to the attraction, thereby providing excellent value for your pupils.

5 Escape the classroom

I am sure you will agree that the nature of the learning environment can change the way a child interacts with a topic or idea. The space in which your pupils are participating in the workshop should be designed to erase the feeling of your four classroom walls – for example, imagine your classroom being 135 metres off the ground, deep in the depths of a dungeon or

far, far away in a fairy-tale land (all of them are available!). Look out for workshops in unusual learning spaces, as these are experiences that not only create 'wow' moments in learning but also help to create memories and develop recall of the topic being taught.



Joanne Chamon is education manager at Merlin

Entertainments. Visit www.merlinsmagicallondon.com/schools



10 OF THE BEST

DAY ATTRACTIONS

Step back in time, take a trip to the theatre, get set for adventure or climb aboard a roller coaster – there's something for every school in our round-up...

1 Thorpe Park

Thorpe Park Resort Theme Park welcomes schools from all over the country. In 2019 it will be running Adventure Weeks throughout June that include entry, fast-track access and an explorer's activity pack. There are over 14 rides and attractions for pupils under 1.4m tall, and schools can also choose to add a KS2 STEM workshop for just £1.50 per head. The park has a dedicated schools team to help you every step of the way – simply get in contact to start organising your next adventure.

For more information, email tpschoools@thorpe-park.co.uk or visit www.thorpepark.co.uk/schools



WOODEN WONDER
Visitors to the museum can view the prototype of the De Havilland Mosquito – one of the most remarkable combat aircraft of World War 2.

2 De Havilland Aircraft Museum

Capture and keep the attention of your pupils with a visit to one of the country's premier aviation museums, where the emphasis is not only on historic aircraft but also on the vast contribution manufacturer de Havilland Aircraft Company made to the South Herts scene. Situated at Salisbury Hall, London Colney, just off J22 of the M25, it offers a specially tailored experience for students from the age of four upwards through its collection of more than 20 de Havilland aircraft – they can even sit in some – and range of engines.

For more information, visit www.dehavillandmuseum.co.uk or call 01727 826 400 (24hr).



3 Tonbridge Castle

Tonbridge Castle educational tours and workshops immerse students in the turbulent and fascinating history of this long-standing gatehouse, offering a fun, informative and hands-on way to learn about the past. Visiting pupils will experience a vivid recreation of the sights, sounds and excitement of the castle in the 13th century, including a visit to the basement store and the armoury, joining the garrison for supper and climbing to the top of the battlements.

For further information, visit www.tonbridgecastle.org/educational-tours-and-workshops or email tonbridge.castle@tmbc.gov.uk

4 Warwick Castle

Warwick Castle has a full day of learning and discovery jam-packed into its walls, with an experienced education team dedicated to bringing history vividly to life through a full programme of tours and workshops. A trip to the castle is made easy for teachers, with one-to-one booking support and a brand new schools officer, who helps make sure your trip goes perfectly, even helping organise your day upon arrival. Look out for their brand new Falconer's Quest, starting from Easter – it's set to be the UK's largest bird of prey show and is included in the ticket price.

For more information, call **0871 222 2772** or visit www.warwick-castle.com



SAFEGUARDING THE PAST
Over £6 million has been invested in restoration at Warwick Castle during the last 10 years.



5 British Motor Museum

The British Motor Museum offers a range of interactive museum walks, hands-on workshops and self-led activities allowing KS1 and KS2 pupils to experience the sights, sounds and stories of the British motor industry while engaging in a fun learning programme that links to the national curriculum. There's a coach drop-off point outside the museum entrance, accessible toilets and dedicated learning spaces, including a lunch area. Workshop sessions cost £7 per pupil, and the museum offers a travel grant of up to £300 to help schools with the cost of their transport.

For more information, visit britishmotor-museum.co.uk/schools or call **01926 649 649**.



6 Flambards Theme Park

Flambards Theme Park can be found in Helston, Cornwall and combines a wide range of rides with indoor recreations of different historical eras, including educational experiences aimed specifically at schools. The latter include a life-size Victorian village featuring 50 explorable locations and a 'Britain in the Blitz' attraction – schools can book 'living history characters' to help bring these to life, for example, an Air Raid Patrol warden. Meanwhile your thrillseekers will enjoy the Skyraker (pictured) and experience up to 3G with the giant white-knuckle experience that is 'Sky-force'...

To find out more, call **01326 573 404** or visit **www.flambards.co.uk**



POPULAR CULTURE
Disney's spectacular West End production of Aladdin has been seen by more than 70,000 school pupils since it opened in 2016.

7 Disney's Aladdin

Breathtaking sets, mind-blowing special effects, over 350 lavish costumes and a fabulous cast and orchestra bring the magic of Disney's Aladdin to life on the West End stage. This spectacular show, which is packed full of dancing, music and storytelling, is a fantastic stimulus for creative work and will inspire primary and secondary pupils alike.

You can enhance your visit with free online resources, including a nine-part video library, or take advantage of a range of pre-show workshops led by Disney Theatrical Teaching Artists. Prepare to escape to a whole new world!

Find out more at **www.aladdineducation.co.uk**

STAY AND PLAY

If you have children aged under eight in your group, they'll have sackloads of fun in 'Sorted!', the museum's miniature, mail-themed world.



8 The Postal Museum

The Postal Museum offers an award-winning learning experience for your school. Five interactive galleries reveal stories from 500 years of communications innovation through the post. Delivered by engaging facilitators, educational workshops, storytelling and science shows bring history alive for all key stages and support learning across the curriculum. Highlights include 'Ride Mail Rail' – take your class on a specially made underground train through the original tunnels of the Post Office railway.

For more information, call **0300 0300 700** or visit **www.postalmuseum.org**

9 Stubbers Adventure Centre

Based on a picturesque 130-acre site, Stubbers Adventure Centre is a registered not-for-profit organisation that has helped hundreds of schools provide students with the opportunity to develop social and interpersonal skills and build confidence through participation in adventurous activities. The centre offers water sports, including kayaking, jet skiing, sailing and raft building, as well as activities such as archery, fencing, orienteering, laser tag and rifle shooting. 'The Towers' section, meanwhile, offers climbing, abseiling, high ropes and a zip wire, and motorsports including quad bikes and 4x4 driving.

Find out more about its School Special Programmes at **www.stubbers.co.uk/lotc** or call **01708 224 753**.



10 The Birmingham Stage Company

The Birmingham Stage Company is one of the world's top companies creating theatre for children. Its award-winning productions tour the UK and internationally, most recently performing on Broadway, selling out the Sydney Opera House and regularly triumphing in London's West End. They work with Britain's top children's writers including David Walliams, Liz Pichon, Terry Deary, Michael Morpurgo and Philip Pullman. Recently nominated for the Best Entertainment and Family Olivier Award, the company stages spectacular shows that are tailored specifically for children with amazing sets, costumes and fantastic effects, and aims to make every production a truly memorable event.

For more information, call **020 7437 3391** or visit **www.birminghamstage.com**



Sharing THE MAGIC

Well-planned visits to great museums can pay huge educational dividends, but not enough children are making it through the doors – happily, help is at hand...

Museums have come a long way. The dull and dusty places of cliché still exist, but in a world in which most of us are time poor and choice rich, more have evolved to become engaging and hands-on experiences, as capable of firing the imagination as informing us about our cultural heritage, in a bid to stave off the competing allure of instant-access entertainment – or perhaps more pertinently in the age of austerity, persuade us that dipping into our bank accounts for a ticket is money well spent.

Despite this, it's a sad fact that many children in the UK today grow up rarely if ever setting foot inside a museum – government research published in 2017 and covering 2015/16 (bit.do/TSTmpi) identified a fall in overall visitor numbers in the millions, and the decline is also apparent in school trips: the study points to a 6.9% decrease in “educational visits and participation in on-site activities for under-18s”. So what's going wrong, and does it really matter?

Museums and Schools

On the face of it, a trip to the museum seems like a no-brainer for schools, but with budgets stretched, optional,

if desirable, extras are often the first to go. It's the case, too, that for many schools outside metropolitan areas, options are limited, while competition for the ‘learning outside the classroom’ (LOtC) spend is fiercer than ever. It's easy for museums to get overlooked.

It was a recognition of these issues – and the belief that no child should miss out on the cultural and educational riches on offer – that led to the setting up of the Department for Education-funded and Arts Council England-managed Museums and Schools Programme. Since its introduction in 2012, the programme has offered financial support and the expertise of a national partner to a growing number of regional museums across the country. Today there are no fewer than 18 partnerships in place, most comprising multiple museums and all located in the government's opportunity areas, where deprivation and low cultural engagement are particular problems.

The money spent on the programme totals a relatively modest £1.2 million each year, but as a recent independent evaluation (see bit.do/TSTMaS) highlights, it is having considerable success in both connecting smaller regional museums and schools, and



ensuring the former have the resources to provide a compelling educational offer. Last year, the programme supported 117,899 visits, nearly two-thirds of which were pupils visiting a museum for the first time.

Engaging learners

How exactly the museum partnerships deploy their funding is up to them, but many use it to subsidise visiting schools' costs – from offering tickets entirely free of charge to providing help paying for transport – and all involved deliver curriculum-linked workshops and activities to add educational value to their collections.

Whatever their strategy, it adds up to a fantastic package for schools, as the Arts Council's

“It's a better way of learning, I would argue, than sitting, listening in a classroom – this is about feeling something viscerally”

A DAY AT THE MUSEUM

At The Langley Academy Primary in Slough, staff go out of their way to offer pupils 'real', hands-on learning experiences, both in the classroom and beyond. Here are headteacher Tracey Bowen and deputy head Grace Shaw's tips on making the most of museum visits...

KNOW YOUR OBJECTIVES

"It's vital to be clear about why you're going. What's your intention? What do you want to get out of it? Be sure to give staff the opportunity to visit beforehand too; if you haven't been there to actually plan out the experience, you're not going to get the most out of it."

DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK

If you can't find what you're looking for, get in touch – many museums are willing to be flexible: "Rather than picking off the menu, you can tailor-make what you need. Museums are usually very happy to adapt their offer, because they're so thrilled to share what they've got to share."

WORK IN PARTNERSHIP

"Some teachers think, 'I'll get to my workshop, then the workshop leader will have the children and I'll get them back at the end.' Actually, you need to work with museum staff, because while they're experts in their subject, you're the expert in your children. You've got to develop a partnership."

INVOLVE PUPILS EARLY

"Each of our year groups is (unofficially!) twinned with a museum; throughout the year the children use information from that museum in their learning and become familiar with it. When they then visit, they're far more involved in the trip and the experience becomes more meaningful."

Emily Jordan explains, with reference to 'Wartime Christmas', an event put on by the Lincolnshire partnership.

"There are so many reasons why a school might want to be involved in the programme," she says. "For example, the school I met with on my visit to Lincolnshire could only really afford to take their pupils on one trip per term, and for them there was no other option that ticked quite so many boxes as this one did. The children weren't simply visiting a museum; they were also actively engaging with activities and workshops, things that connected them to their curriculum, their local heritage and the wider world."

In this instance, far from peering through glass cabinets and reading dry descriptions, pupils were, over the course of the day, given the opportunity

to put themselves in the shoes of 1940s evacuees, charged with making cookies from the contents of their ration books and writing a Christmas card home to their parents (all while dressed in authentic period attire). "When I left in the afternoon they were dancing a 1940s-style dance, and every single one of them was participating," Emily remembers.

It sounds great fun, but, Emily stresses, this approach offers a real boost to learning too: "The children are interacting with something physically; they're seeing, they're touching, they're doing, and it makes things more real to them. It's a better way of learning, I would argue, than simply sitting, listening in a classroom – this is about feeling something viscerally. Afterwards, they go back to the



classroom with a vigour and interest that wasn't there before."

Nor is it only the children who are benefiting – teaching staff, Emily points out, are gaining inspiration and knowledge from the experiences museums are offering, and insights into their pupils' character and motivations too. Some museums are even using their funding to offer formal training to educators in order to share their expertise.

Something for everyone

The Museums and Schools programme is a win-win for schools seeking inspiring and informative visits and a way to keep a handle on their costs.

As the number of museums involved grows, so do the opportunities for children and their teachers – and wider cultural engagement receives a boost into the bargain as families are engaged in the process. As Emily puts it, "The kids are benefiting because they're really enjoying the experience; teachers are benefiting because they're actually learning a lot; and it's really, really helping small museums connect with their communities."

You can find a list of existing museum partnerships at bit.ly/TSTmsm. For more information about the Arts Council England's Artsmark programme, visit www.artsmark.org.uk



Visit Wollaton Hall & Deer Park

Explore the beautiful grounds of Wollaton Hall looking for signs of Autumn and enjoying a whole host of activities investigating colour changes, leaf loss, hibernation and the changing weather. Back at the Hall the children examine closely animals from our handling collection-squirrel, hedgehog, jay etc finding out how they make special preparations for Winter during this season.

Learning opportunities

- Themed teacher led sessions
- Facilitated sessions
- Sleepovers
- School camps
- Resource packs and trails
- Sight tours
- 500 acres of parkland to explore
- Galleries to go

To find out more visit

www.nottinghammuseums.org.uk/learning-and-education

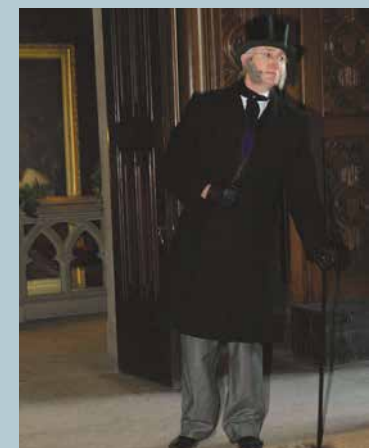


Nottingham
City Council



Visit Newstead Abbey

Meet Dr Livingstone the famous Victorian missionary and explorer who is staying at Newstead Abbey. As his friends the Webbs and most of their servants are away, the children assist him in making butter in the kitchen for his tea and washing and polishing below stairs. Dr Livingstone then takes them on a grand tour of the splendid rooms, telling them about his African expeditions, his thrilling adventures and how he saved Mr Webb's life!



Learning opportunities

- Themed teacher led sessions
- Facilitated sessions
- Sleepovers
- School camps
- Resource packs and trails
- Sight tours
- 300 acres of parkland to explore
- Galleries to go

To find out more visit

www.nottinghammuseums.org.uk/learning-and-education/



Nottingham
City Council

Wollaton Hall

Visit a magnificent Tudor manor that's home to a collection of 750,000 natural history objects

BEFORE YOUR VISIT

Call the dedicated booking line to get answers to all your queries and ensure your visit suits the needs of all your pupils.

1 Fascinating workshops

Wollaton's curriculum-linked workshops are delivered by a team of expert subject specialists. Experience Tudor Wollaton with Lord Willoughby, or meet Mary Anning, the Victorian fossil hunter and use real fossils to find out about her groundbreaking finds.

2 Learn outdoors

Join Wollaton's outdoor team for a park-based workshop, get scientific and explore the diverse habitats of Wollaton Park on a field study day, or try your hand

at pond dipping, tree trails and environmental art.

3 Explore the manor

Take your pupils on a tour and explore the manor house from different perspectives, from the wealth and grandeur of the prospect room to the extensive Tudor kitchen that can be found in the basements.

4 Arts Award

Discover great ways to enhance your Arts Award delivery using the unique art and architecture of Wollaton Hall, or secure extra support by booking one of Wollaton's Arts Award supporter workshops.

5 Back at school

Extend your experience back in school with Access Artefacts: curriculum-themed



handling boxes that contain original museum objects, teaching materials and activity suggestions. Your loans box can support classroom learning for a whole half term.

www.nottinghammuseums.org.uk/learning-and-education T: 0115 876 1420 E: schools.programmes@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

// NEWSTEAD ABBEY

Newstead Abbey

Allow your pupils to explore a treasure trove of the rare, beautiful and historically significant

BEFORE YOUR VISIT

Call the dedicated booking line to arrange an amazing learning experience and get answers to all your queries.

1 Book a workshop

Access engaging curriculum-based workshops delivered by a team of expert subject specialists using original and authentic handling objects. Experience a day at Victorian Newstead with the Webb family or discover the fascinating life of the poet Lord Byron.

2 Develop creativity

Help your pupils develop their artistic talents and leadership skills by booking a dedicated Arts Award 'Discover in a day' session for your group; alternatively use one of Newstead's

workshops to enhance your own Arts Award delivery.

3 Tour the Abbey

Make sure you don't miss a thing by taking a tour of Newstead Abbey. You'll uncover the compelling history of the building, from the monastic cloisters and Byron's bedroom and study through to the stunning Victorian kitchen.

4 Explore the park

Take time to explore 300 acres of beautiful parkland, complete with lakes, ponds and cascades, and home to a variety of wildlife and diverse habitats – together it adds up to endless opportunities for creative inspiration.

5 Access Artefacts

Extend your experience back at school with Access Artefacts: Newstead's



curriculum-themed handling boxes. The boxes contain original museum objects, teaching materials and activity suggestions. Your loans box can support classroom learning for a whole half term.

www.nottinghammuseums.org.uk/learning-and-education T: 0115 876 1420 E: schools.programmes@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

7 SCHOOL TRIP SLIP UPS

When you want to take learning outside the classroom, avoiding these classic pitfalls will help you plan for success, says **Gill Harvey...**

1 Going DIY

Apart from the obvious financial protection offered by tour companies in the form of ABTA or ATOL bonding, it's very easy to underestimate the amount of time and effort that you will expend on arranging a 'DIY' trip. It pays off to approach a reputable tour company with years of experience invested in their teams. They will have first-hand knowledge of your destination and a good 'bank' of suppliers from which to choose appropriate services for your trip, and can offer 24-hour help and support in the unlikely event that anything should happen – from flight delays to last minute cancellations, etc.

2 Missing information

Tour companies and their suppliers such as airlines, hotels and leisure attractions overseas will ask for a lot more information in one place than you are probably used to processing. It's important to collect as much data as early as possible, including passport information, nationality, and even dietary requirements. This allows the tour company to identify anything that needs action, like an expired passport, or a non-EU national who might need additional entry documents for their destination.

3 'Relaxed' commitment terms

Invariably a tour price will be based on a 'minimum number'



of participants, and if you book the tour and pay deposits for those numbers, then you are committing to maintaining those numbers, whether you have achieved them at the time of booking or not. Deposits to tour operators are almost always non-refundable, so it's a good idea to ask for a bigger initial deposit from your participants than is being asked for by the tour company: this way you have a 'cushion' against late payers, dropouts, or replacement participants.

4 Not delegating responsibility

Surround yourself with a team of competent staff colleagues who can take on particular roles either in tour preparation or on the actual trip, such as collecting

certain data, looking after passports or pocket money on the tour, or managing pastoral groups. Delegating should also extend to ensuring that it's the parents' responsibility to ensure their child has the correct documents (passport, visa if applicable), and that they adhere to a code of conduct prior to and during the tour.

5 Ignoring curriculum support

The benefits of opportunities to learn outside the classroom are far reaching. To maximise the positive impact of the trip and help gain approval from parents and the school to run the trip in the first place, ask your operator how they can support you to promote these

benefits. You can also recruit your students to help with posters for the classroom and approach the operator to help provide materials and information for presentations you can give to pupils and parents.

6 Not doing things in the right order

Many tours don't get beyond the planning stage because teachers haven't gauged parental interest and got approval from the headteacher first. Approaching an operator for a quote first can be a huge waste of time for all concerned. Making an enquiry should be the last step in the process and allows tour companies to give a much better service.

7 Not using an accredited provider

Using an STF-accredited provider saves you precious time in filling out paperwork and gives you peace of mind that the elements of the trip have all been carefully checked on your behalf. There's a comprehensive online Teacher Toolkit at schooltravelforum.com to address common concerns, from fears over liability issues to how to minimise the administrative burden.



Gill Harvey is chief executive of the School Travel Forum (STF).



LEARNING JOURNEYS

Tour 1 – The Norman Conquest

This tour will inform pupils about the Battle of Hastings, have a focus on the Norman Conquest (specifically William the Conqueror's role in it) and describe the establishment of castles in England. It will not only give the children an appreciation for our medieval history and the importance of building fortresses, but also actively engage them with questions and props! For KS1–4.

Tour 2 – Meet the Monarchy

This tour introduces children to the concept of monarchy and discusses key attributes of a successful or unsuccessful monarch, such as respect, ability to lead and the impact of not producing an heir. Those covered include Henry VIII, William the Conqueror and Queen Victoria, with the tour teaching the popular stories associated with these monarchs – but you can contact the team if you would like to cover others!

Workshop – Swords & Shields

The students are introduced to a selection of key weapons of the medieval battlefield, how they were used and who would carry them. They will take part in drill and marching exercises as performed during the middle ages. The workshop will also give the students the opportunity to learn some basic sword-fighting skills. The tour ends with an opportunity to design a uniform based on their favourite warrior.

WE LOVE TO LEARN

Explore the medieval era

Spend a day at Warwick Castle and transport your pupils into England's past

The team at Warwick Castle is passionate about education, offering a full day's learning within its historic walls for preschool through to Key Stage 5. Whether it's taking part in a workshop, climbing the 500 steps of the towers and ramparts or visiting the Great Hall and staterooms, there's tons for students to explore. The castle is also home to a myriad of seasonal shows, including a

new bird of prey show, Falconer's Quest (launching Easter!), and the mighty Trebuchet and Bowman.

Warwick Castle is also a trip made easy for teachers, with one-to-one booking support, a schools officer helping to organise your day and memories students can take back into class. For a limited time only, off-peak 2019 tickets are discounted – from £3.25 per student!

CURRICULUM LINKS



P.E.

Students can burn off their excess energy during the Swords & Shields and Battle Skills workshops as they practise real medieval battle drills!



ENGLISH

What better way to motivate creative writing than by exposing your pupils to the inspiring architecture and history of a real medieval castle?

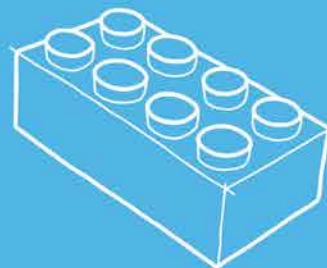


HISTORY

Warwick has plenty! There are more than 10 school-exclusive tours to choose from during your visit, making it the ultimate classroom for history.

www.warwick-castle.com T: 0871 222 2772





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Email us at School.Enquiries@LEGOLAND.co.uk
or call 0871 4232 280*

*Calls cost 13p per minute plus network extras.



LEARNING JOURNEYS

Workshop 1 – EcoPower

New for 2019 and available to Key Stage 2+ students, this workshop ties in science and technology. The session explores the key difference between renewable and non-renewable energy, exploring the advantages and disadvantages of each. Students will then design and build a LEGO machine powered by a renewable energy source, utilising the learning from the workshop in a unique hands-on activity.

Workshop 2 – The science of roller coasters

Also new for 2019, this workshop allows students to explore how gravity, friction, air resistance, weight and momentum all work together on a roller coaster. In groups, children will then design and build their own LEGO roller coaster, ensuring all forces are in balance allowing their creation to function correctly.

Workshop 3 – Story Starter

Linking to the English and art & design curriculum for Key Stages 1 and 2 is the LEGO® Education Story Starter session. The aim of this workshop is to spark creativity and boost reading, writing, speaking and listening skills through building scenes with LEGO Bricks and LEGO Minifigures. Schools are encouraged to continue their stories back in the classroom and send them in to LEGOLAND for the team to read and enjoy.

WE LOVE TO LEARN

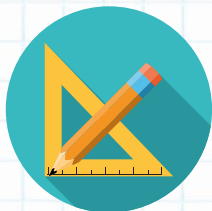
Creative play and exploration

Invite your children to learn and play at the LEGOLAND® Windsor Resort

A trip to the LEGOLAND® Windsor Resort is all about allowing students of all ages to engage and explore through creative and imaginative play. The resort's offer of theme park rides and attractions combined with interactive educational workshops makes it a perfect destination for school teachers seeking somewhere engaging to take a school trip.

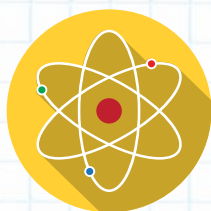
The resort is an exciting venue for learning outside the classroom and most suitable for Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 5 pupils – although there are experiences available for preschool and younger school pupils. Schools can use a National Curriculum map to navigate their way around the resort, making sure they tie in all of their learning objectives whilst they enjoy over 55 rides and attractions.

CURRICULUM LINKS



MATHS

Estimating distances and how many LEGO Bricks are used in certain models is an engaging way to bring numbers to life in the LEGOLAND Windsor resort.



PHYSICS

Study the different forces used on the rides – push, pull, gravity and the way friction is used or overcome on the many exciting rides and attractions.



BIOLOGY

The Atlantis Submarine Voyage allows students to get up-close to aquatic animals. It provides opportunities to explore adaptation, variation and feeding relationships.



As easy as A to B

Don't let your feature- and fun-packed school trip fall at the first (or last) hurdle – make sure your transportation is trouble-free...

Unless something's gone really awry, the focus of any school trip – be it a day away from the classroom or longer – will be the destination, and its capacity to inspire, educate and develop your pupils. But wherever you're headed, even if it's a short trundle down the road, the matter of how to get from A to B and back again safely and to schedule is one that can't be ignored. Here are four points to bear in mind before you book your transportation...

Assess the risk

Your starting point when planning any school trip will be to carry out a risk assessment, and when transportation is required this will be an important part of the process. Aspects to consider include the size and needs of your group and how these will be accommodated when travelling; and from your destination; adult/pupil ratios; and the potential for, and response to, unforeseen circumstances. A useful overview is available at bit.do/BusTravel.

Choose your mode

How you get to where you're going will, to a degree, depend on where that happens to be as well as the size of your party and ever-present financial considerations. For most excursions beyond the local area, the tried and trusted coach will be the first and only realistic choice, with

– depending on budget and length of journey – the onboard amenities available on such vehicles a valuable benefit (if you don't have to worry about toilet stops and can provide additional distraction on long journeys in the form of a shrewdly chosen DVD, so much the better).

If your group is smaller, however, and the driving expertise is available in-house (and it's essential that any member of staff asked to fulfil the role is both fully trained and comfortable with taking on the responsibility), the humble minibus may be a more convenient and affordable option. And don't forget public transport – while the prospect of entering an environment rather less controllable than a private vehicle might give you pause, the potential to avoid traffic jams and parking worries by making use of the train, or the convenience of

the local bus service are worth bearing in mind.

Select an operator

If you opt to travel by private coach, the key decision will be which operator to hire. You may have an existing relationship with a local company that can meet your needs, taking much of the stress out of the process, but if you don't, there are a few things worth bearing in mind. Firstly, whichever company you choose, it will be legally responsible for ensuring the suitability of its drivers and vehicles, providing adequate insurance cover and carrying out the necessary risk assessments. Nevertheless, checking safety policies is important and will provide peace of mind.

Secondly, choosing the cheapest or closest option may not be the most sensible approach. Remember to consider the aforementioned

amenities to ensure a comfortable journey, and seek out reliable recommendations to narrow the field.

Again, depending on the nature of your trip and your destination, you may elect to book with a tour operator that will both manage your trip and provide you with transportation. If this is the case, keep an eye out for companies that are members of organisations such as the School

Travel Forum (www.schooltravelforum.com) as well as those

who can boast of being 'ABTA bonded' and/or 'ATOL protected', both of which offer added security.

Don't rush it

Finally for this overview, don't leave the timing of your journey to chance, particularly when you have a specific itinerary to follow – late-running pupils, slow traffic and bad weather can all throw a spanner in the works. While the nature and severity of delays are difficult to anticipate, you can make allowances when planning your schedule that will lessen the impact of any hold-up and avoid undue stress for drivers and staff – the last thing you want is for your children's enjoyment and learning to be coloured by the wave of panic that strikes when you realise there's absolutely no way you'll be making the start of that carefully planned and pricey workshop...

Bon voyage!





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- Day trips also available
- Fully instructor led activities
- Free taster sessions for teachers including overnight stay and full board

YMCA
National Centre, Lakeside



Call **015395 39000** today for a free Schools Pack and quotation
Visit **www.lakesideymca.co.uk** for more information



The inside story

Steve Scott | lakesideymca.co.uk

With new facilities and a new manager passionate about outdoor learning, the YMCA's Lakeside centre has more than ever to offer schools

For Steve Scott, taking over as manager of the YMCA's Lakeside outdoor education centre is but the latest chapter in a career in outdoor education that has taken him around the world – but despite having worked in the States and Australia, and across the UK, when the chance arrived to move to the unique setting of Lake Windermere, he didn't need much persuading: "As soon as I got here," he tells *TST*, "I thought, 'This is perfect...'"

Teaching life skills

From his very first role with the YMCA – he started as a programme instructor back in 2007 – Steve's ambition has been to help young people acquire the soft skills that schools don't always have time to nurture. "I originally trained as an architect," he admits, "but I very quickly decided that this was a career path I was going to pursue. I wanted to teach those I was working with a little bit more about themselves, to create opportunities for young people and adults to learn how to engage with others while spending time outside.

Outdoor experiences

"We have the traditional high-adrenaline activities – a zip line, climbing wall and king swing – and there's the water sports,



from kayaking to sailing," Steve says. "But we also offer some really interesting, longer experiences – for example, a canoe out to a point, then hiking back through the hills. It's about putting young people

in an engaging environment, where they have choices to make and where there's an element of managed risk. It empowers them, and more often than not, they surprise themselves with what they can achieve."

Fantastic facilities

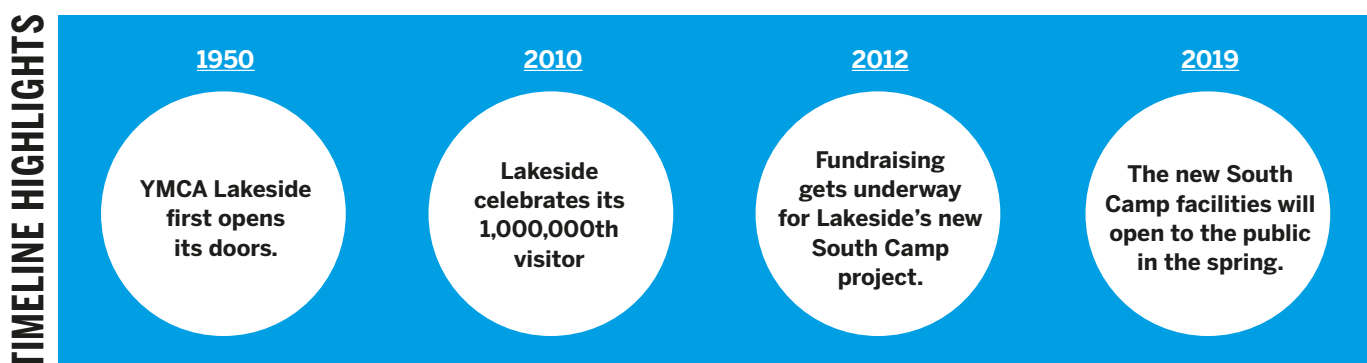
Lakeside will soon have even more to offer visitors as building work on its new South Camp nears completion. "The fresh facilities will enable people of all ages to come and enjoy the centre on a whole new level," Steve says. "It's set up for school parties and other large groups that have a secure need; they can base themselves at South Camp and access all of our activities from there."

The building, which will offer accommodation for around 260 visitors, features a variety of en-suite rooms, as well as a dining hall overlooking the lake and spaces for young people to mingle. "Each of the building's wings could be presented to an individual school," Steve explains, "so groups can have their own space – or a whole school could take over the whole facility."

The new building will, Steve hopes, help make Lakeside even more accessible: "We focus a lot on school groups," he says, "but that leaves us open at weekends for others to come in too – and if children visit with their school and want to come back with their family they'll now be able to do that, which is something we're really excited about."



For more information, visit www.lakesideymca.co.uk, call 01539 539 000 or email lakesideenq@fyldcoastymca.org



5 OF THE BEST

SEN-FRIENDLY TRIPS

School visits are for everyone – if you're looking for options tailored to the requirements of children with special educational needs, look no further...

1 Belchamps Scout Activity Centre

If you're looking for something different for your next educational venture outside the school grounds, try this activity centre set amid 30 acres of camping fields in the Essex countryside. The site includes a choice of five indoor accommodations and two tented villages with a cooking hut, and a range of different experiences to try. Available activities include abseiling, bridge building, bushcraft days (which involve fire lighting and shelter building) and indoor/outdoor climbing, among many others.

For more information, visit www.belchamps.org.uk



DID YOU KNOW?

Calvert Trust Exmoor is a five-star accredited activity centre, located in an area of outstanding natural beauty on the edge of Exmoor National Park.

2 Calvert Trust Exmoor

Calvert Trust Exmoor offers a unique opportunity for students of any age and any disability to experience exciting, challenging and enjoyable adventure activities in a safe, accessible environment. On a residential break, children can overcome challenges, build confidence and enrich their lives through improved self-esteem and a sense of achievement. The Trust also promotes physical activity, helps with social interaction and gives pupils and staff a shared point of reference that can aid engagement when back in the classroom. It works with numerous UK educational establishments, both specialist and mainstream, and can tailor breaks to meet your needs.

For details, call **01598 763 221** or visit www.calvertexmoor.org.uk



3 Zinc Arts

As the UK's first accessible arts and residential centre, Zinc Arts provides you with a truly inclusive learning-outside-the-classroom experience. Specialist educational providers who believe passionately in arts without exception deliver bespoke creative activities for young people and SEN groups. Run your own learning activities, visit nearby attractions or engage your students in Zinc Arts' creative multi-arts workshops, where trained staff will tailor inclusive activities to suit teaching objectives and your students' needs. With residential facilities specifically designed for schools, it's no wonder schools keep returning to Zinc Arts Centre.

For more information, call **01277 365 626**, email info@zincarts.org.uk or visit zincarts.org.uk/venue-hire

4 The Council for Learning Outside the Classroom

Taking learning outside the classroom offers a multitude of benefits for pupils of all abilities – it helps to motivate them, raises attainment and reduces poor behaviour. It's especially valuable to pupils who are hard to reach or who do not respond well to traditional teaching methods, for whatever reason. Children with additional needs often learn best through doing, and school trips can provide them with real-life experiences that can help them lead an independent or semi-independent life in adulthood.

To find out more, get in touch with CLoTC, a national charity that champions all forms of learning outside the classroom. Visit www.lotc.org.uk

SEN SUPPORT
Making trips a regular part of school life provides frequent opportunities for all children to develop their confidence and social skills.



5 FACE

Farming and Countryside Education (FACE) works with schools to help students learn more about where their food comes from. As well as offering bespoke CPD for teachers and carrying out visits to schools, the organisation also facilitates farm visits that enable students of all abilities to gain hands-on experience of the modern farming industry.

For more information, visit www.face-online.org.uk

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WE LOVE TO LEARN

Exciting ways to explore STEM

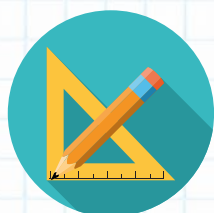
An action-packed day of learning, and the thrill of world-class rides...

If you're looking to inspire your students in the STEM subjects, Thorpe Park Resort's award-winning education programme can help. It offers unique lessons in science, maths and design and technology, based on the park's famous roller coasters. All workshops are created with, and delivered by, teachers, and take place at the Thrills Workshop, a stone's throw away from the

rides and attractions (even if your students are below the height of 1.4m there are still over 14 rides they can enjoy during their day, plus many more activities to discover).

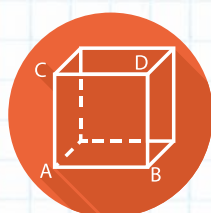
Tickets for primary schools are now only £12pp on selected dates for a limited time – simply quote EARLY19 upon enquiring. Get in touch with the education team directly using the contact details below.

CURRICULUM LINKS



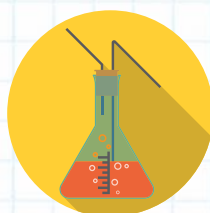
MATHS

Solve problems involving addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, comparing numbers whilst taking measurements; understand why maths is vital to understand roller coaster structures.



D&T

Select from and use a wide range of tools and equipment to perform practical tasks and investigate and analyse a range of existing products.



SCIENCE

Learn about forces and how to explain that unsupported objects fall towards the earth because of the force of gravity; identify the effects of air resistance and friction.

LEARNING JOURNEYS

Workshop 1 – Maths at Thorpe Park Resort

In this maths workshop students will take concepts taught in the classroom and apply them to real-world scenarios. Children will calculate just how fast *Stealth* screams down the track and how many twisting inversions they and their friends could go through in a day!

Workshop 2 – K'NEX: the science of roller coasters

Thorpe Park's flagship workshop uses K'NEX Education to provide tactile, engaging learning! This workshop introduces KS2 children to forces and their importance when designing a roller coaster, and accessible K'NEX kits allow students to make their own marvellous creations!

Workshop 3 – D&T roller coaster structures

Students learn about the design process, materials and methods used in the creation of a world-class attraction. How important is secrecy during the construction of a new attraction and how does great theming enhance the guest experience? Come and find out!

All workshops at Thorpe Park last up to 45 minutes and can hold up to 70 students at one time. Pre- and post-workshops, resources are sent out to support teachers throughout their booking journey, providing schools with ongoing inspiration throughout term time!



West Midland Safari Park

Go wild on a four-mile safari packed with educational opportunities and tons of fun

EASY TO ORGANISE

Booking your trip is made stress-free with no booking forms or deposits needed – a memorable day is just a call or email away!

1 Drive-through safari

This four-mile safari brings you nose to nose with some of the most magnificent animals on earth, including rhinos, lions, giraffes, cheetahs, tigers and elephants. See if you can spot the latest babies, or hire an on-coach Safari Ranger to help you!

2 Walk-through exhibits

There's plenty to do on foot too. Visit the Discovery Trail, home to penguins, free-flying bats, rainbow lorikeets and more. Lemurs and meerkats can be found in the

African Village, or step back in time in Land of the Living Dinosaurs and Ice Age.

3 Safari Academy

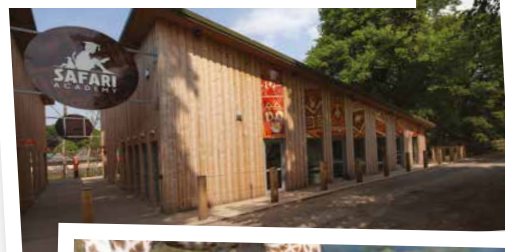
Located near the Hippo Lakes, the purpose-built Safari Academy enables pupils to immerse themselves in a unique learning environment, where the park's education team aim to inspire a future generation of conservationists – from nursery age up to university level.

4 Educational extras

Informative 45-minute Discovery Sessions are held in one of the park's five classrooms and are designed to complement your chosen topic/theme. Alternatively, Walking Safari guided tours of the walk-through areas, or on-coach Safari Ranger, further enhance students' knowledge.

5 Take a ride

During the summer season, schools can upgrade admission to include wristbands for the rides. Plummet 30 metres on the Venom Tower Drop or get soaked on Wild River Rafting. Meanwhile, little ones and SEN groups can explore Boj's Giggly Park – a multisensory play area.



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School Journey Association

Five ideas for your primary school's next trip, at home and abroad

WHAT'S ON OFFER?

The SJA offers funding of £50 to all FSM children, plus additional funding of up to 50% towards the cost of trips for disadvantaged pupils.

1 Activities

SJA's activity trips are suitable for all age groups and a fantastic way to motivate pupils, whilst teaching them independence, self-belief and many other life skills. On offer are day and residential trips to accredited activity centres throughout the UK and France.

2 Belgium

Belgium is an ideal destination for groups to have their first taste of European culture. This tiny country boasts diverse landscapes ranging from the deep Ardennes forests and hillier regions, to sandy beaches

with dunes and its famous First World War battlefields.

3 France

France is a popular destination for primary school groups that's easily accessible by coach and Eurostar train services. Available packages include a wide variety of day and residential trips with secure accommodation and exciting attractions specific to school visits.

4 The UK

From Edinburgh to London, Devon to Northumberland, SJA has a wide range of fun, learning-focused trips. The team works with you to ensure your selection is right for you, whether you're planning Y3's first trip away or a post-SATS adventure.

5 Spain

Spain is a country of great cultural and regional diversity and offers a variety of

opportunities for school groups to explore art, history and the natural environment, practise fledgling Spanish skills, and experience the diverse food culture and unique sporting heritage.



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HOW GOOD THE WORLD CAN BE

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Growing active CITIZENS

It's never been more important to introduce pupils to the workings of democracy, and UK Parliament's free outreach programme makes it easy, as **Dan Gallacher** explains...

Ask any adult in the street what they studied in Year 5 and they may struggle to remember; ask them about school trips and it all comes flooding back. School trips are often the first time a child experiences something: the first time they have visited an art gallery or museum, the first time they have fed farm animals or, in our case, the first time they have seen a political debating chamber in action. My friend who is an education officer on a working farm recently mentioned a study that showed one in nine children hasn't been to a park, beach or any other natural environment for at least a year. Apart from the occasional queasy child on the coach and the inevitable forgotten packed lunch, school trips are brilliant and enriching experiences for young people that can spark fresh curiosity in the world around them and complement classroom learning.

However, we know that school trips can be hard to organise, with risk assessments, parental consent, a packed school timetable and restricted budgets all being a challenge. This is where outreach programmes can be a real asset for teachers – let the outside come into school! For a museum it might mean bringing historical objects into the classroom, for a farm it might mean bringing a friendly goat and an incubator of chicks into the school playground – and for the UK Parliament it means delivering free, whole-school assemblies with interactive voting pods and 'Philosophy for



Children'-inspired workshops on making laws.

Why does it matter?

The aim of our outreach programme is to support young people in understanding what the UK Parliament is, how they are represented in Westminster and how they can get involved and be active citizens. Why is this important? Well, in the 2017 General Election only 43% of 18–24-year-olds voted, and only 38% of 18–24-year-olds surveyed said they knew "at least a fair amount" about politics. Schools already have a packed curriculum, but anything you can do to help your learners be more active citizens by the time they can vote is hopefully something we can all agree is worth doing. There's also plenty that under-18s can do right now, from writing to their MPs, to standing for the school council or creating a petition about a local issue. By the end of our sessions all your pupils should

have a knowledge of what the UK Parliament is and a wider enthusiasm for using their voice to positively change the world around them.

What's available?

Our assembly acts as a great introduction to the UK Parliament and our workshops cover a range of topics, including law-making and debating, elections and voting and campaigning. We work with pupils aged 7–18 and our sessions are linked to school requirements, including British values, citizenship and PSHE. Our outreach officers facilitate exciting and informative sessions and our use of innovative electronic voting pods means we can instantly check the learning of each young person as well as get whole-class, whole-year group or even whole-school views on a range of topics. This year we will have delivered to over 80,000 pupils across the UK, with

consistent ratings from teachers of either good or excellent. If you would like something longer term, you can order one of our Loan Boxes, which you can keep for a month. These are jam-packed with props and lesson ideas and are completely free, including postage and packaging. There are also a host of other learning resources on our website ready to be downloaded and taught. If you would like to boost your own knowledge about the UK Parliament, check out our CPD offer, which includes our flagship three-day Teacher Ambassador residency in Westminster.

Closer to home

If you are able to make the trip into London, our free school trips to the Houses of Parliament are available to all; however, there are many other ways to bring the UK Parliament into your school if travelling isn't an option. So whether you're a tiny coastal school in Wales or a four form-entry primary in Liverpool, the UK Parliament Education Service is here to help you bring democracy to life in a way that suits you.



Dan Gallacher is Parliament's education and engagement outreach manager.

For more information, call 0207 219 4496, email engage@parliament.uk or visit www.parliament.uk/education



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they complement your visit and focus on a particular subject. By participating in these activities, children become more aware and will learn a greater respect for the marine environment, whatever their year group.

Online educational resources, including kits and teaching aids, are also available from Nausicaá's specialised website – visit www.nausicaa.co.uk/school

CURRICULUM LINKS



OCEAN ENERGY

The seas and oceans are one and the same, and are essential to our life on earth. Everything we do on earth has an impact on the sea, because everything ends up in the sea...



OCEAN LIFE

The ocean is full of living beings that depend on the environment. Each develops its own strategy for survival... We still have so much to learn about the sea's biodiversity!



OCEAN CULTURE

Extraordinary exchanges take place in the ocean: people and goods travel, and information flows. It is a precious resource which needs new governance for a sustainable future.

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LEARNING JOURNEYS

Workshop 1 – Zoom into marine life (ages 8–18)

Observe tiny fauna magnified thousands of times on a wide screen and discover the importance of good water quality for the survival of the species.

Workshop 2 – Calculate your ecological footprint (ages 8–18)

Discover your ecological footprint and impact on climate change with this 20-question quiz!

Workshop 3 – To the rhythm of the tides (ages 6–10)

Explore marine biodiversity. Discover living animals from the seashore and their adaptation to the tide cycle.

Workshop 4 – Zoom into marine biodiversity (ages 8–18)

By observing tiny marine animals through microscopes in the lab, pupils will discover many shared characteristics...

Workshop 5 – Let me sea! (ages 9–12)

Insights into our relationship with the sea, a wonderful world filled with a diversity of life forms, environments, relationships and ecosystems.

Workshop 6: Sharks! Not even scared! (ages 9–17)

An exploration of sharks and their importance in the ocean that will help your pupils see these fascinating creatures differently.

Workshop 7: Abyss trip (ages 9–12)

Discover the inhabitants of the sea through an imaginary trip from the surface to the abyss.

Each workshop lasts an hour and must be booked in advance – email resa@nausicaa.fr to book or education@nausicaa.fr for more information.



Manor House

Take your pupils on a relaxing and fun-filled break that has something to suit every interest

HAPPY TO HELP

A designated school bookings advisor is on hand throughout to ensure that your trip runs smoothly, allowing you to enjoy a stress-free visit.

1 Take up a sport

With an outstanding choice of sports facilities, including an FA/WRU-accredited 3G sports pitch, Muga pitch, 11 tennis courts and indoor sports halls, the Manor House & Ashbury are the perfect venue for team sports, training sessions and tournaments.

2 Try something new

The best part of any break is trying new things and at the Manor House & Ashbury you can do just that. The extensive range

of activities includes archery, air rifle/pistol-shooting, laser shooting, indoor bowls, roller skating, ice skating, snooker and more!

3 Get crafty

The hotels feature two unique craft centres, offering 18 different crafts, giving students the opportunity to learn new skills and create fantastic products that they can take home. Experienced tutors are on hand throughout to offer tips and advice.

4 Relax and unwind

After a busy day of activities it's great to unwind and relax. The hotels' unrivalled range of leisure facilities, can help and include ten-pin bowling, water slides, a soft adventure play area, an adventure golf course and three swimming pools.



5 Enjoy full board dining

Not only will all of your activities be included in the price of your break, the hotels also offer full board dining as standard. All residents can enjoy three buffet meals a day, from check-in to check-out.

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- Activity Instructors to run all sessions
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Our new 3G & MUGA pitches are perfect for tournaments and training. Enjoy a number of sports including: football, hockey & tag rugby.

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Get creative with our 18 tutored crafts. All tuition is available free of charge, with material costs starting from just £1!

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Tailor your programme from the 70 activities that we offer, plus enjoy our range of leisure facilities FREE OF CHARGE throughout your stay.

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Adventure awaits with Aladdin

“Exciting”, “Magical” and “Dazzling” – school audiences are falling in love with Disney’s smash-hit musical...

Disney’s *Aladdin* is everything a school party could wish for and more, and is dazzling students on a daily basis at the Prince Edward Theatre, in the heart of London’s West End. Breathtaking sets and special effects, over 350 lavish costumes (sparkling with over two million Swarovski crystals) and a fabulous cast and orchestra bring the magic of this popular musical to life on stage.

A spectacular event

Awe-inspiring set designs drawn from the minds of industry legends create a magnificent display that transports students to the fabled city of Agrabah time and time again. Join Aladdin and Genie as they venture across a land inspired by textiles and architecture from the Middle East and across the globe to much-loved melodies written from the 1992 Academy Award-winning film, including ‘*Friend Like Me*’, ‘*A Whole New World*’ and ‘*Arabian Nights*’.

The journey to Agrabah

Aladdin offers a range of educational resources which are available to download for free for use both before and after watching the production. Session ideas and activities as well as a video content library are available and provide a wealth of creative ideas to inspire learning across the curriculum, including a new video library consisting of 10 three- to five-minute videos which are easily accessible and provide an engaging starter for a session.



Pupils enjoy show content in a pre-show workshop



On the day

Aladdin’s pre-show workshops give pupils (and teachers!) the rare opportunity to perform scenes, songs and dances from the West End show. There’s a choice of four workshops, which are suitable for pupils aged 7+. These engaging, practical sessions are specifically adapted to suit your class. This itinerary has been devised for a KS2 group with little performing arts experience but a lot of enthusiasm!

11am

Meeting at world famous Pineapple dance studios in Covent Garden. The group are met by their Disney theatrical teaching artists and are shown to their rehearsal studio. Fill up water bottles!

11.15–12.45pm

Musical theatre workshop exploring the opening number to the show, ‘*Arabian Nights*’. Teaching artists lead the group through a 90-minute session adapted to pupils’ age and level of experience.

1–2pm

Free time – many groups use this opportunity to explore Covent Garden!

2.30–5pm

Matinee performance of Disney’s *Aladdin*. The Prince Edward Theatre is a short walk from the workshop venue. The show runs for two and a half hours.

Back in the classroom

Once back at school, there is a wealth of ideas within the ‘*Out of the lamp*’ resource; while aimed at KS2, the resource is flexible and activities can be adapted to suit different ability levels and schemes of work. This resource delivers on learning objectives in English, art and design and performing arts.

The video library can be used to deepen pupils’ knowledge of the production, including the process of theatre making, research, storytelling and adaptation for stage, as well as what it takes to be a part of the costume, design and backstage teams. It’s like a virtual backstage tour!

For more information or to book your show tickets or additional workshops, call Disney Tickets Group Sales on 020 7845 0949 or email groupsales@disneytickets.co.uk. For more information, visit www.aladdineducation.co.uk



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PGL

Five ways a residential trip will enable your primary school's children to grow

DID YOU KNOW?

PGL was established in 1957 and continues to create exciting adventure programmes for young people at its residential centres in the UK, France and Spain.

1 Independence

Bringing children out of their comfort zone for a trip away filled with new experiences is a great way to foster independence. As they adapt to new routines and activities, they learn to organise themselves and become more self-reliant.

2 Confidence

Experiencing success in the great outdoors offers a fantastic confidence boost, especially for children who may not engage with the traditional sports available

in school. Trying something new and exploring the unknown works wonders for self-esteem, regardless of ability.

3 Resilience

Conquering a fear of heights on a climbing wall, rebuilding a raft at the fourth attempt or tackling a challenge course all help create the resilience and determination that enable children to succeed in other areas of their lives.

4 Tolerance

Living together as part of a community, sharing space and eating together are essential aspects of the residential experience. All require tolerance, a positive attitude and the ability to compromise, qualities that will benefit young people throughout their lives.

5 Emotional wellbeing

Being outdoors and close to nature helps put the mind at ease. The emotional wellbeing that comes with getting outdoors and active (and away from electronic devices) can help children reconnect with themselves and reduce stress.



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- 15 Residential centres in the UK and 3 in Northern France
- Support for you and your pupils from our friendly centre teams and your own PGL group leader
- Free teacher preview visits available






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Have you got your tickets?

Fancy a trip to the theatre? The **Birmingham Stage Company** has three great shows for schools touring in 2019



Schools & theatres

Theatre visits for schools are both fun and educational; your class will be so engaged in this new environment that they won't realise they're in a lesson. In 2019, the Birmingham Stage Co. will be touring Britain with two Horrible Histories shows and Tom Gates Live on Stage.

Horrible Histories Live on Stage

Suitable for pupils in KS1/2, these shows feature fantastic 3D effects and cover the Terrible Tudors (from the horrible Henries to evil Elizabeth) and the Awful Egyptians (fascinating Pharaohs, the power of the pyramids, and the foul facts of death and decay!).

Tom Gates Live on Stage

Tom Gates, the hugely popular character from Liz Pichon's bestselling books, is making his stage debut in a brand-new story written by Liz herself. Featuring amazing art effects, this hilarious adventure makes for an unforgettable theatre visit. (Ages 5+)

Book now!

All venues with term-time shows have daytime performances and special schools prices. View the tour dates by visiting the websites below, and check out the teacher resource packs at birminghamstage.com for extra information.

{ SEE YOU THERE! }

FIND YOUR VENUE

Find your nearest show by visiting the websites below. More venues are being added all of the time.

EASY TO BOOK

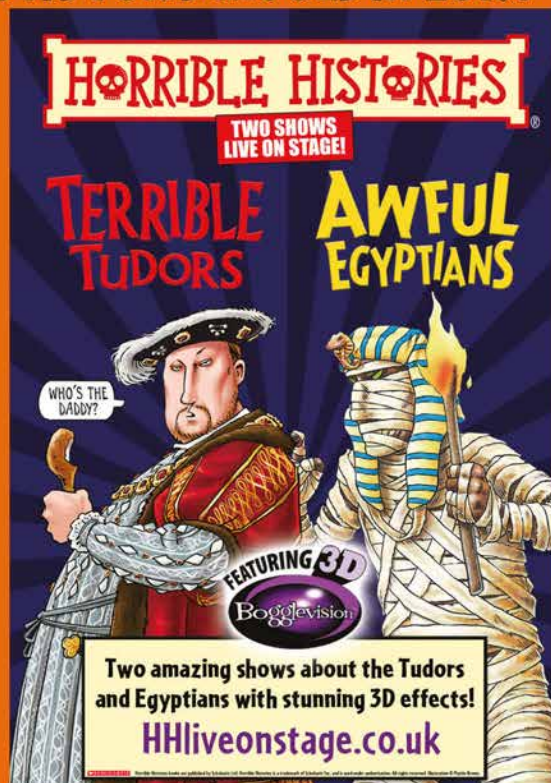
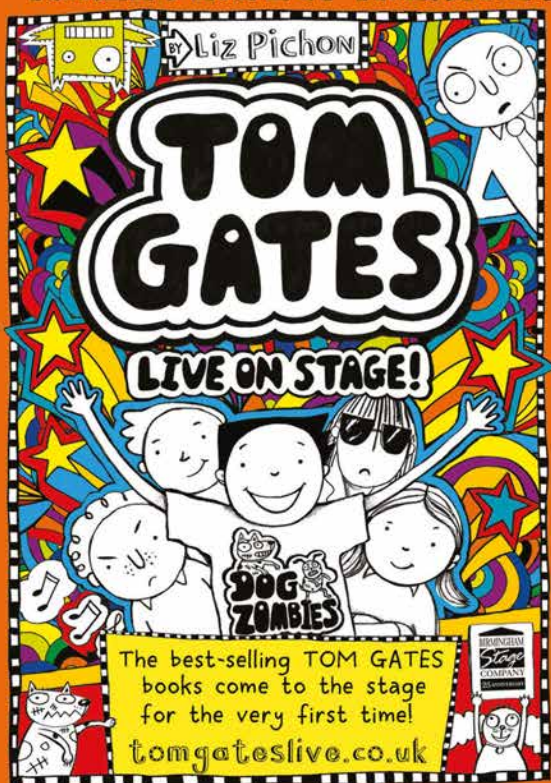
For tickets, contact the theatre's box office; you'll get a special schools price and won't have to pay right away.

HAVE FUN LEARNING

Themed teacher resource packs are available to take back into the classroom – visit birminghamstage.com

www.TomGatesLive.co.uk www.HHLiveonStage.co.uk www.birminghamstage.com

THREE PERFECT THEATRE SHOWS FOR SCHOOLS IN 2019!



ALL THREE SHOWS HAVE WEEKDAY DAYTIME PERFORMANCES WITH SPECIAL RATES FOR SCHOOL GROUPS!

UKSA

Take to the water in a host of ways to learn and have fun on the Isle of Wight

WHAT'S ON OFFER?

UKSA hosts residential and non-residential visits on a waterfront campus in Cowes, Isle of Wight, offering everything you need for an amazing learning journey.

1 Dinghy sailing

Dinghy sailing is about adventure, teamwork and having fun. Children learn to sail on specially selected smaller, single-handed RS Qubas and Zests, in sheltered training areas with tuition at a 6:1 child to instructor ratio. Children can work towards RYA dinghy qualifications.

2 Windsurfing

There's nothing quite like windsurfing – novices can grasp the basics in a few hours. The UKSA team travel across the

island to seek out the best winds for windsurfers of differing abilities. Children can work towards RYA windsurfing qualifications.

3 Kayaking

At UKSA, children can kayak in sheltered inland locations. Its instructors cover getting in and out of the craft, balance, forwards and backwards paddling, stopping, steering and dealing with capsize. Children can work towards BCU Paddlepower qualifications.

4 Keelboating

Keelboats bridge the gap between dinghies and yachts and are ideal for groups of up to six children. During a keelboat session, crew members swap roles to emphasise the importance of teamwork. Children can work towards their RYA keelboating qualifications.



5 Stand-up paddleboarding

UKSA's introductory stand-up paddleboarding session is held in flat-water conditions. It's fast, fun and designed to get children standing up on the water. They learn paddling techniques, turns, self-rescue, falling techniques and how to cope when water conditions change.

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UKSA – inspiring, supporting and empowering young people



yha

Unique experiences, extraordinary residentials

Whatever your subject and whatever your desired learning objectives, when you choose YHA School Trips you can be assured of a safe, fulfilling and unforgettable residential that will stay with students long after their coach journey home.

Our flexible approach sets us apart from many residential providers. Offering self-led or organised trips our residentials are tailor-made to meet the educational needs of your students and designed to offer engaging and exciting ways to inspire, motivate and challenge every member of your group.

We are YHA. We transform young lives forever through travel and real adventure.

Because where you go changes who you become.

stay | join | give | volunteer

- Full board stays from £26 per night*
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- Sole use hostels available
- Free planning visits and free leader places
- Support available

***Terms & Conditions:** The £26 offer is for under 26's per person, per night for self-led stays including full board. Prices based on stays between Sunday and Thursday. Minimum of 2 consecutive nights stay. Selected dates and locations - see website for details.



6 REASONS TO CHOOSE

YHA



Discover affordable, curriculum-linked residentials in stunning locations across England and Wales

DID YOU KNOW?

Last year almost 100,000 primary and secondary school children stayed on school trips with YHA.

1 Flexible options

YHA works with teachers and experts in their field to offer a range of fully flexible residential options that are ideal for school groups of all shapes, sizes and abilities. Whether you are looking for a base for self-led adventures, a National Curriculum-linked package with activities delivered for you, or an adrenaline-fuelled action adventure course, YHA has it all, and a little bit more for good measure.

2 LotC accreditation

YHA has been enriching the lives of young people since 1930, so you can trust its team to provide you with expert guidance on how to plan a residential that is perfectly tailored to your needs. Plus, over 80 YHA sites have LotC accreditation and counting, the most of any provider in the UK, so you can be confident that you are making the right choice for your educational school trip.



3 Unique experiences

Your students will relish the opportunity to escape the classroom for a few days and experience hands-on adventures. YHA residentials provide the ideal environment for groups to get into the fresh air, explore the great outdoors and engage in a wide range of activities, many of which they may not ordinarily be able to try – from climbing and caving, to canoeing and kayaking.

4 Extraordinary residentials

Because they are based upon high-quality residentials YHA school trips can play a key role in igniting your students' passion, enthusiasm and desire for learning. They lead to positive outcomes such as increased resilience, improved self-confidence, better social relationships, and educational achievement, among many others. Staff witness first-hand the benefits that these residentials have on students who stay with YHA – why not discover what your group will gain from the experience?

5 Affordable adventures

YHA school trips are available on a full-board basis from just £26 per person for self-led stays at some stunning locations across England and Wales. On top of that YHA may be able to meet the full cost of trips for children with challenging lives, so be sure to speak to its team to discuss your group and its needs.

6 Transforming lives

When you choose YHA, you're helping change young lives for the better. The children and young people that stay with YHA get the chance to explore England and Wales, meet new friends, try different activities and grow through experiences of adventure and discovery. Because YHA is a charity, it invests all the money it makes into creating opportunities for people from all backgrounds to experience amazing places, share extraordinary journeys and discover a different path through life.

Because where you go  changes who you become

Why every child deserves A RESIDENTIAL

Learning away from school and home can help your pupils grow in confidence, develop independence and improve across the curriculum...

JAMIE WALLS

It's proven that taking pupils on a quality residential school trip during their primary years is hugely beneficial from an educational perspective. Indeed, there is a growing body of evidence demonstrating the positive impact of residential experiences both on young people's academic outcomes and their wider development – the independent research by York Consulting into residential learning provides fantastic insights into the difference these trips can make, for a start (read more at bit.do/YorkCon).

In spite of what the research says, schools, teachers and parents alike can sometimes be hesitant to commit to residential trips for one reason or another –

be it the cost, planning, time or stress involved. But the benefits outweigh these perceived cons, and support is available for those who want to take the plunge.

Breaking barriers

How can residential benefit pupils in the primary years? It's difficult to know where to start! The change of environment can provide inspiration and help to improve creativity amongst pupils (and teachers) across a whole range of subjects – but it doesn't stop there...

Residentials provide an opportunity to break down the barriers between pupils and teachers, and education and the classroom. Relationships can be forged and built upon over the course of a trip that

may not have naturally grown in the traditional school environment. Removing seating arrangements and the physical obstructions between pupils and teachers allows new interactions and broadens the circles of those that take part. Long-term follow-up responses after a residential experience found that 84% of KS2 students felt that they knew their teachers better, and 75% felt they got on better with their peers. In fact, according to Learning Away (learningaway.org.uk), when residential experiences are integrated with the curriculum, are inclusive and progressive, and involve staff and students in planning and following up, the sense of cohesion and of belonging to a community is enhanced throughout the whole school.

Boosting confidence

Another more obvious benefit of residential trips is the immediate boost in confidence that pupils and teachers alike can gain from them. In fact, this is the benefit most likely to be identified by pupils. Student leadership skills naturally emerge in a residential environment, and often in those that you may least expect it from.

These types of experiences move pupils out of their perceived comfort zones and facilitate a new learning and social environment. For many pupils, such a trip could be their first time staying away from home. The sense of independence and



adventure generated can spark excitement and self-belief in even the most timid, developing their resilience and self-confidence.

Ofsted agrees: in a 2008 report about learning outside the classroom, it stated: "When planned and implemented well, learning outside the classroom contributed significantly to raising standards and improving pupils' personal, social and emotional development."

Supporting learners

One of the lesser recognised benefits of residential trips is the impact they can have on the progress of lower-attaining pupils, who may have difficulties with concentration and engaging in a classroom



environment. In the primary years, in particular, residential trips can help to develop pupils' speaking and listening skills, and broaden their vocabulary. Study and research skills can be developed in a way that means they are more likely to be retained by less academic children – the out-of-classroom learning environment can break down barriers to learning and allow information to be absorbed. The aforementioned confidence boost can also mean that quieter students are more likely to put forward their views and engage in group discussion.

The support residential provide pupils needn't be restricted to term time, either. Cathedral Academy in Wakefield, for example, used the LOTC-approved

having the right facilities available at your destination underpins its success. The Learning Outside the Classroom (LOTc) Quality Badge is something to look out for in particular. It is the only nationally recognised indicator of good quality educational provision and effective risk management. Having this quality standard means the red tape associated with a school trip is reduced. There are currently around 1,000 providers with the quality badge, with YHA boasting more than 80 LOTC-accredited sites alone in England and Wales.

It's important to point out that planning is key; a brilliant residential does not happen all by itself. It requires teachers and the provider to work together to identify what

“Student leadership skills naturally emerge in a residential environment, and often in those that you may least expect it from”

site YHA Castleton Losehill Hall, in Derbyshire, to pilot a successful summer school with Year 6 pupils before their transition to Year 7 (pictured). They undertook a number of outdoor activities, including bushcraft, shelter building, archery and orienteering in the 27-acre grounds of the venue. “The summer school had a positive impact on all students,” Kat Cafferky, vice principal of Cathedral Academy, who organised the trip, commented. “Their confidence grew by the day; they made many new friends and were glowing by the end of the week.”

Choosing wisely

It probably goes without saying, but it's vital to have the right environment for a residential school trip, and

you want to achieve and how it will be done. The easiest and most effective way to ensure your residential school trip runs smoothly and delivers at every level, for both staff and students, is to engage with a recognised and trusted provider of school trips. Finally, it may sound obvious but choose a destination that complements the topic or subject area you wish to cover. For example, YHA has several locations of historic and geographic importance – YHA The Sill at Hadrian's Wall is located close to the iconic Sycamore Gap and the Roman site at Vindolanda and is popular with many educational and youth groups who visit Hadrian's Wall and Northumberland National Park for history and geography field trips.



Creating memories

The most important thing to say about a residential trip is that pupils will walk away from it with memories that they will cherish and an experience that will add to their academic journey. No fewer than 82% of KS2 pupils surveyed by York Consulting were proud of what they achieved on their residential and 58% thought they would do better in their schoolwork as a direct result.



Jamie Walls
is product development and delivery manager at YHA.

START PLANNING YOUR STAY

Follow these simple tips to ensure your residential goes smoothly...

- 1. Book a pre-visit** – By arranging a pre-visit, group leaders can get a feel for the residential destination. They can also talk to staff, get assistance with any paperwork necessary and see the activities first-hand.
- 2. Check facilities** – Do you know what catering and sleeping arrangements are available? Ensure that your groups have dedicated rooms and that the catering is not only offered but of good quality with any dietary requirements catered for too.
- 3. Book early** – Popular LOTC-accredited destinations can be sold out up to a year in advance – book early to avoid disappointment.

YHA (England and Wales) offers support to schools who choose a YHA School Trip at any one of its 150 locations – for more information, visit yha.org.uk

10 OF THE BEST

ANIMAL ATTRACTIONS

Invite your pupils to get up-close with creatures both domestic and exotic whilst learning across the curriculum

1 SEA LIFE London

Inspirational for all ages, SEA LIFE London offers pupils the opportunity to explore the creatures that live in our rivers and oceans. They will walk in awe through Pacific Ocean tunnels, tropical rainforests and an Antarctic penguin point. Younger children's curiosity will be piqued as they become top rock pool explorers while older students can observe, first hand, ecosystems, environmental changes, evolution and marine conservation. Pupils will learn about the different oceans around the world, explore creature characteristics and differences in their adaptations to survive, and compare and contrast the life stages of mammals, amphibians, insects and birds.

For more information, call **0871 663 1679** or visit www.visitsealife.com/london



LEARN MORE
Primary school teachers can choose from a variety of workshops to enhance their pupils' visit; topics include adaptation, classification and life cycles.



2 West Midland Safari Park

Located in Worcestershire, West Midland Safari Park has been welcoming educational groups for over 40 years – and with its 140 species of amazing animals, pupils can immerse themselves in a truly unique learning environment. In 2017 the park's purpose-built Safari Academy opened – a sustainable, state-of-the-art education centre, dedicated to providing learning opportunities for all ages. A variety of educational sessions are on offer to complement the curriculum, delivered by an experienced education team who aim to inspire a future generation of conservationists. Prices start at £10 per child with free teacher places available too.

For more information, call **01299 404 888** or visit www.safariacademy.co.uk

3 Cotswold Wildlife Park & Gardens

From art to geography, science to literacy, whether you want an educational talk for your pupils or are just coming for a visit, Cotswold Wildlife Park has plenty to offer. Home to over 260 different animal species, and comprising 120 acres of stunning gardens and parkland, it is the perfect place to bring the National Curriculum to life. Your pupils can get eye to eye with giraffes, watch rhinos graze on the manor house lawns, walk with lemurs, take a ride on Bella the train or explore the adventure playground. Free coach parking is available.

For more information, call

01993 825 720 or visit

www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk



4 Monkey World

Whether your pupils are learning about primate rescue work, the impact of deforestation or how woolly monkeys use their tails, Monkey World's experienced education team can enhance your trip to Monkey World and support learning in the classroom. As well as curriculum-linked sessions and workbooks, Monkey World offers visitors the chance to see over 250 monkeys and apes including the largest group of chimpanzees outside of Africa, Europe's only orangutan crèche and a breeding group of woolly monkeys – all in one day!

Visit **www.monkeyworld.org**, call **01929 401 022** or email **education@monkeyworld.org** for more information.

5 Amazona Zoo

Amazona Zoo in Cromer Norfolk is home to over 200 animals from tropical South America – from jaguars and monkeys to otters, snakes, owls, macaws and tapirs. The zoo features a 30-foot yurt for viewing educational films and other learning activities; an expansive outdoor play area, Rainforest Springs, with two large jumping pillows; and a spacious, well-equipped indoor play area, Jungle Tumbles. There are opportunities for visitors to see the animals being fed, meet the zookeepers and learn about the history of South America and the rainforest.

For details, call **01263 510 741** or visit **www.amazonazoo.co.uk**



DID YOU KNOW?

Amazona Zoo is the main sponsor of a programme of research into the life of the Titicaca River Frog, an extraordinary amphibian from the lake of Titicaca.

6 Stratford-Upon-Avon Butterfly Farm

A visit to Stratford-upon-Avon Butterfly Farm offers an excellent opportunity for children of all ages and abilities to learn about tropical rainforest environments and the plants and animals that live within these habitats, as well as the life-cycle of a butterfly and the ancient Maya civilisation. A variety of tours, covering KS1 and 2 curriculum subjects, are available, all tailored to meet the needs of your group and featuring an introductory talk and 'Meet the Mini-Beast' handling session.

For more information about the hands-on learning experiences available, call **01789 299 288**, email schools@butterflyfarm.co.uk or visit www.butterflyfarm.co.uk



BACK IN TIME
Visit Longleat House to learn about its role as a military relief hospital during the First World War and what life was like for patients.

7 Longleat

Longleat is home to a wide range of attractions, so can easily tie in with a variety of topics, act as a case study, or be the inspirational starting point to a project. Science and history have intrinsically strong connections but Longleat also presents wonderful opportunities for subjects such as English, maths, art and design that can be given a real-life context.

There's a huge selection of workshops and resources, for EYFS through to KS4+, to access, and Longleat is committed to continuously improving through expanding their variety of activities on offer.

For details, call **01985 845 403**, email education@longleat.co.uk or visit www.longleat.co.uk/education

8 Redwings

Redwings is the UK's largest horse sanctuary. Visiting students will learn about the importance of animal welfare as they discover the care the sanctuary provides for rescued horses, ponies, and donkeys.

The sanctuary can be booked exclusively for school groups and can tailor educational visits to meet a range of learning outcomes suitable to outdoor learning at its visitor centre locations. Redwings facilitates learning outside the classroom through fun interactive sessions – what better way to learn than by getting up-close to a giant Shire horse, a family of donkeys or a group of cheeky ponies?

For details, call **01508 481 000** or visit **www.redwings.org.uk**



CAREERS ADVICE

Are any of your students interest in becoming a zookeeper? If so, Colchester Zoo's Animal Careers workshop will be of great interest.



9 Colchester Zoo

Colchester Zoo has an award-winning education programme and offers free sessions to support many subjects across the curriculum. As well as covering traditional science and geography concepts such as adaptations and conservation, it also extends to English debating skills, art, maths and wildlife forensics, to support curriculum areas not traditionally associated with a zoo visit.

Schools looking for a general zoo visit are also very welcome to attend and use any of the zoo's free online resources to focus self-guided or group learning.

For more information, email **education@colchesterzoo.org** or visit **www.colchesterzoo.org**



10 Paignton Zoo

Paignton Zoo in Devon features 2,500 animals across 80 acres of natural habitat. It has a comprehensive education offering to tempt schools – primary students can access a range of interactive, curriculum-linked workshops, which take place in themed classrooms containing a host of artefacts and specimens. Options include Evolution, Endangered animals and conservation, and habitats and adaptations, and all are taught by qualified teaching staff. The team can also help visiting teachers to develop an itinerary for their visit, spanning a wide range of subjects, including maths, art, English, geography, and more.

To find out more, email **education@paigntonzoo.org.uk** or visit **www.paigntonzoo.org.uk**

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available for
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VISIT MONKEY WORLD

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MONKEY WORLD
APE RESCUE CENTRE



Monkey World - Ape Rescue Centre, Longthorns, Wareham, Dorset BH20 6HH

www.monkeyworld.org

OUR BIG DAY OUT

“The group couldn’t wait for their visit”

Sunninghill Prep’s Karen King explains why her trip to Monkey World proved a hit with pupils and staff alike



Up for adoption

Prior to our visit, we researched the rescue centre on its excellent website. The class got extremely excited about the prospect of visiting Monkey World and seeing the monkeys they’d heard about. They decided on fundraising activities such as a bake sale – with plenty of monkey-themed cupcakes! – so they could ‘adopt’ a monkey. The adoption scheme inspired them to learn about the monkeys and made them feel they were contributing towards future rescue and rehabilitation operations.

Animal magic

Once they’d chosen a primate, the group couldn’t wait for the visit, as they were so keen to see their adoptee! The sheer pleasure on their faces when they watched the chimps playing in their spacious, purpose-built enclosures was magic! I’d recommend catching a keeper talk, as the keepers are so passionate and informative about their residents, and always willing to offer their time to answer the children’s questions – nothing is too much trouble.

Understanding & empathy

Having walked around the 65-acre park, the children gained a much better understanding of how, just like them, the chimps and orangutans need lots of play equipment and food challenges to keep them inquisitive and occupied. This helped the children to grasp how closely related we are to the primates, and built their empathy. The class could see for themselves the fireman’s hosepipes used in the spacious enclosures for the apes and monkeys to climb.

Places to play

One other, non-animal highlight I must mention was the fantastic outdoor play area. There was plenty of room at Monkey World to sit down and have a picnic, and then charge off to climb the rope ladders, up to the super slides! The children had great fun and were able to let off some steam, as well as mimic the primates they had seen that very day climbing, playing and swinging in their enclosures.

{ THE STORY CONTINUES }

After the visit, the children asked how they could help save primates. We discussed the plight of the orangutans, whose habitat is being destroyed to produce palm oil, and the exotic pet trade. We checked product packaging for the Fairtrade logo and to see what includes palm oil.




The Monkey World education team run a fantastic outreach programme, and we followed up our visit with an assembly from them that was both informative and inspiring. The children learnt about Monkey World’s important rescue and conservation work as well as enjoying photos of the cute monkeys!

We read the book *The Old Man of the Forest*, about Monkey World’s orangutan, Tuan, and the children were moved and saddened by his story. This encouraged group discussion and debate, and the children become very engaged in the topic.

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Brazilian value: Admission still at 2014 prices!!



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Cotswold Wildlife Park & Gardens



RHINOS ON THE LAWN

tripadvisor "GREAT DAY OUT FOR ALL AGES" Tripadvisor review

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www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk

Stratford-upon-Avon Butterfly Farm

www.butterflyfarm.co.uk



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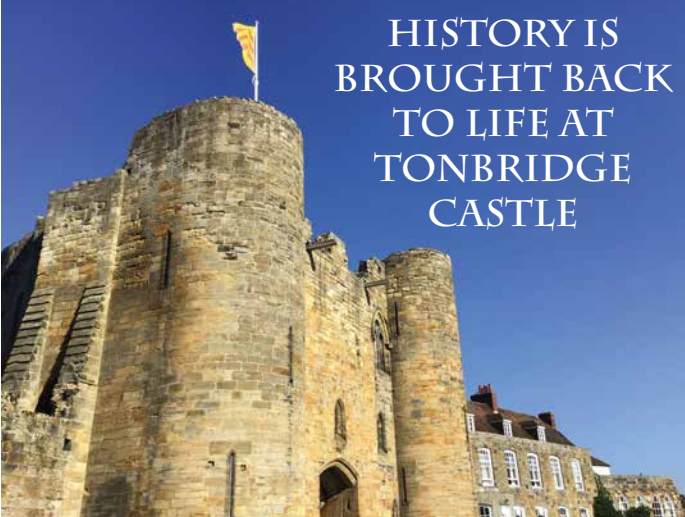
Swan's Nest Lane, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 7LS,

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Tel: **01732 770929**

TONBRIDGE CASTLE

6 REASONS TO TRY

Kingswood

Planning a residential school trip? Wherever you're based, and no matter the age of your group, look no further for an unforgettable experience

BOOK NOW AND SAVE!

A little birdie told us that Kingswood is having a January sale! You could save up to 25% on residential adventures in 2019. Discover more at Kingswood.co.uk

1 A choice of location

One of the great things about Kingswood is that it has nine activity centres available across the country, as well as a chateau in France, making its outdoor learning experiences accessible to in excess of 170,000 young people each year. On top of that, its parent company, Inspiring Learning, has just added a new centre to its portfolio, Skerne Lodge, in North Devon.

2 Your trip, your objectives

Kingswood gives schools the freedom to choose the type of activities they want their pupils to enjoy, and by adding your chosen learning outcomes, you can tailor your stay to your specific requirements – from team building and communication, to activities focusing on self-confidence and resilience. Give the handy online programme builder tool a go, and create your perfect school trip – you'll find it at www.kingswood.co.uk/programmebuilder



3 Residential for all ages

From the Young Explorer programme, which encourages pupils from Years 1 to 3 to explore, discover and experience the centres with a friendly teddy bear as a guide, to the Wild Adventurer programme, which includes a survival challenge where teams put the skills they have learnt to the test, Kingswood can offer your school a residential suitable for children across KS1 and KS2.

4 International relations

Book with Kingswood and your class could even practise their language skills during their stay, with visitors coming from over 35 countries worldwide. For international guests, Kingswood offers an immersive platform for pupils to improve their English language skills. In fact in a recent study, 88% of international students said they could speak more English after their visit to a Kingswood activity centre (based on a survey of 1,954 international students who stayed in 2018).



5 Support for parents

It is only natural that parents feel nervous when sending their young ones off on a residential school trip, but the Kingswood team can help ease anxieties. They have created a wide variety of resources to put mums' and dads' minds at ease, including sample menus, packing lists, a safeguarding guide and lots more.

6 Back for the holidays

If your pupils love their time at Kingswood, they can choose to return independently in the school holidays, with the added advantage of having been before with their class and thus knowing the ropes. As well as building confidence and developing independence, they will have the opportunity to make new friends and have another go at their favourite activities, from zip wires to laser quest!

“We took Year 5 to see *MADAME BUTTERFLY*”

At Hillstone Primary School a passion for the performing arts is being nurtured both in and out of the classroom...

Back in August 2018, children's playwright David Wood OBE lamented the fact that young theatre audiences are becoming more middle class as fewer and fewer schools elect to organise trips to productions (bit.do/TSTdc). “What we all desperately want,” he said, “is children who are not automatically going to come to the theatre because their parents wouldn't take them, and the schools are the ones that are going to bring them.”

For schools, it may seem easier said than done. Wood himself acknowledges that the cost of undertaking such visits has become increasingly prohibitive, particularly transportation, and understands that teachers may be reluctant to ask for more from parents themselves struggling to make ends meet; but he also blames an overly narrow focus on testing for restricting the amount of time schools have to carry out such visits.

One school that cannot be accused of the above – and which perhaps provides a model for how others might set about immersing their pupils in the

power of live performance – is Hillstone Primary in Birmingham. Its commitment to the arts, and to an all-round education in general, could hardly be more full-blooded; and, as assistant head and arts director, Keith Farr, explains, the barriers aren't necessarily as high as some might think.

Embracing the arts

The opportunities children at Hillstone receive to enjoy live performances don't stop at the theatre – they even extend to opera. But everything the school does in this regard is built upon solid foundations.

“Our curriculum, the

entirety of the curriculum, has an arts bias to it,” Keith tells us. “It's a whole-school philosophy. We've got staff that fully engage with it, and when we're recruiting we're looking for people who have the same vision we have. As part of this, when we're preparing our topics each half term, we'll look for opportunities to work with real artists and arts organisations, so that the children get the experience of working first hand with professionals. We've worked with Ballet Rambert and the Birmingham Royal Ballet, the Welsh National Opera and the RSC as well as local theatres, universities and musicians.



We've got an actor from the Birmingham Rep who's working with us one day a week for the year at the moment."

Organisations such as those listed above are regular visitors to Hillstone, many returning on a yearly basis to run workshops for the children – this has obvious benefits for students, who receive specialist teaching they might otherwise never have had access to, but there's another advantage too, as Keith explains: "Working with these groups often brings opportunities for us to get hold of either free or cheaper tickets, which allows us to take the children to see a range of performances."

"The Welsh National Opera is a good example – a few years ago they were working with local schools and they wanted our children to learn a couple of choruses. We ended up going

to a small rehearsal theatre, and all the children sang. For doing that we were given some tickets... the upshot being that we took the whole of Year 5 to see *Madame Butterfly*.

"It's quite a challenging opera – sung in Italian – and it was an evening performance as well, but we invited all the children and parents, and virtually everyone came. No one had seen an opera before, so it really felt like we were opening doors for them."

The power of performance

Hillstone's night at the opera was a great success – the children's behaviour was "immaculate" because they were "completely enthralled", which is saying something for nine- and 10-year-olds, as Keith points out. But this wasn't down to chance: "We prepared them, so that before they went they'd heard

the tunes, they knew the story and they were really excited about it. Even though the whole thing was in Italian, they followed it completely."

And it didn't end there. When Year 5 returned to school, they asked to perform their own version of *Madame Butterfly* as a project for the summer term.

"I rewrote the opera using some of the tunes while making them more accessible for the children – but the story wasn't watered down one bit," Keith says. "I had 46 children in the group, and not one child didn't want to do a solo audition on stage, singing to the others. Even the narrators insisted on singing their lines! It shows the power of going to a live performance – take the children and it will fire their

imagination, their curiosity and their creativity. They'll want to engage, and they'll never forget it for the rest of their lives."

FOUR STEPS TO EMBRACING LIVE PERFORMANCE

- "Phone around a lot of the theatres and you'll find there are certain performances for which they'll welcome school parties in, allowing you to negotiate some good prices."
- "Prepare your children for every visit – they'll enjoy it even more. Even discussing simple things like the design of the theatre will fascinate them."
- "Try contacting theatre companies directly – are they prepared to come and work in the school? Once you get a group in, they can usually open a few doors for you."
- "We don't take what arts organisations are offering lock, stock and barrel; they bring their skills as performers or artists, but we understand how our children learn, so we see it as a partnership."

imagination, their curiosity and their creativity. They'll want to engage, and they'll never forget it for the rest of their lives."

Real benefits

Similar experiences abound at Hillstone: pupils who performed *A Midsummer Night's Dream* recently as part of Shakespeare for Schools were treated to an RSC performance of *A Christmas Carol* as a reward for their efforts, while the year group working with Birmingham Rep were taken to watch *The Wizard of Oz*. When we speak, another year group is

to live performances and you'll see a change in them straight away," he says. "They will grow so much. That on its own makes it worthwhile. And if you can build a child's confidence, their curiosity, their self-esteem, their communication skills and their ability to work with others, it will help all of their learning too."

All this might sound like hard work, and effort (as well as a passion for the arts) is certainly required; it's also true that despite the partnerships it has forged, Hillstone often heavily subsidises the cost of visits – but, Keith stresses, don't

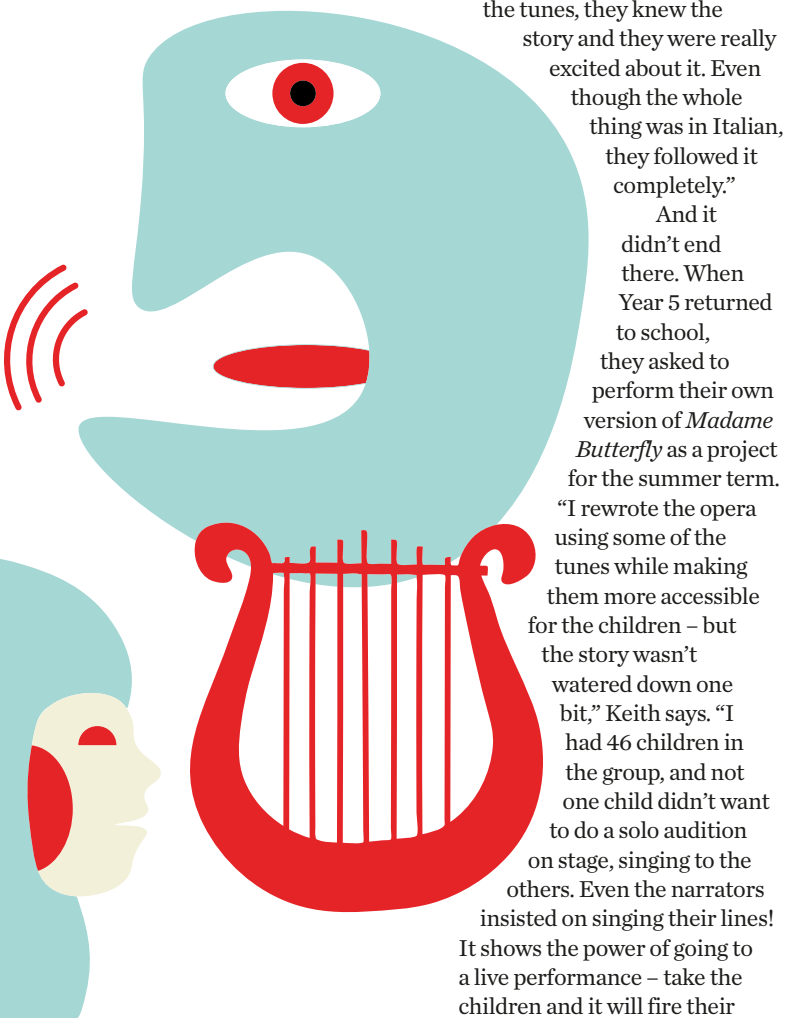
"Take children to live performances and you'll see a change in them straight away"

involved in a Russian-folklore-themed composition project with a local grammar school, which is to culminate in a performance at Symphony Hall, followed by the chance for children to watch the symphony orchestra play *Peter and the Wolf* and *The Firebird* – and that's just what we have space to mention. It's inspiring stuff.

For his part, Keith has no doubts about the value of the school's approach. "Take children

assume that offering children these sorts of opportunities to expand their cultural horizons is unachievable: "It's not impossible, and as soon as you've done it once or twice, the school will get the bug and you won't stop!"

If you want to immerse your pupils in the arts, why not consider Arts Council England's Artsmark? Visit www.artsmark.org.uk



10 OF THE BEST

RESIDENTIALS

Get the very most out of your days away by choosing from this selection of first-class providers...

1 YHA School Trips

Whatever your subject and whatever your desired learning objectives, when you choose YHA School Trips you can be assured of a safe, fulfilling and unforgettable residential that will stay with your students long after their coach journey home. What's more, as a leading youth charity YHA believes that every child should have the same chance to discover, explore and grow – to that end it creates unique opportunities for young people from all backgrounds to experience amazing places, share extraordinary journeys and take a different path through life.

For more information, visit www.groups.yha.org.uk or call 0800 0195 465.

OUTDOOR EXPERTISE

YHA has been working with young people since 1930. Today over 80 of its sites (and counting!) have LOTC accreditation.



2 UKSA

UKSA specialises in introducing people of all ages to the great outdoors through watersports and sailing. Its water-based activities are a great way to build confidence, teamwork and resilience. A variety of disciplines are offered, from dinghy sailing and kayaking, to windsurfing and stand-up paddleboarding. Team building and multi-activity programmes are also available.

UKSA's 3.5-acre fully residential campus is based in Cowes, Isle of Wight – just a short hop over from Southampton, Portsmouth or Lymington. There are regular complementary preview weekends for anyone who wishes to experience what's on offer, first hand. For details, call 01983 203 045 or visit www.uksa.org



3 Cumulus

Cumulus Coast is an action-packed residential programme tailored to your requirements, fully supported by a team who will guide you every step of the way. Set in a secluded camp on the edge of Poole Harbour, with 24-hour on-site pastoral care, each programme combines traditional bushcraft with exciting adventure activities, with all meals cooked on camp. Activities can include coasteering, waterpark visits, a mud run, kayaking, mackerel fishing, rock climbing and abseiling.

The perfect choice for a school trip or leavers' camp, fun and educational, the three-, four- or five-day programmes encourage students to enjoy and explore the great outdoors. For more information, call **01929 555 111** or visit **cumulusoutdoors.com**

4 Scout Adventures

With over 100 years' experience in character education, Scout Adventures know how to help young people find fun and adventure, learn new skills and become active citizens of the future. Its brilliant residential experiences are all about helping young people to reach their potential. With the philosophy that learning away can have a powerful, positive impact on young people's academic achievement, the Scout Adventures team are committed to helping and supporting schools by providing high quality residential experiences for young people of all ages that are teacher-led, affordable and inclusive – and can also offer teachers with free resources.

For more information, visit **www.scoutadventures.org.uk**



5 Essex Outdoors

Experts at delivering outdoor education and adventure for more than 40 years, Essex Outdoors provides high quality learning opportunities to schools and youth groups, from activity days through to residential experiences and adventurous expeditions. Its four centres in Essex offer a wide range of activities – from aerial trekking, canoeing and climbing to mountain biking, obstacle courses and sailing – and with great transport links to London and the Eastern region, Essex Outdoors is the perfect choice for your outdoor needs. Its competitive prices mean great value, too.

For details, call **0345 200 4220** or visit **www.essexoutdoors.com**



RURAL RESIDENTIALS
Standing in 15 acres of gardens and parkland, Dunfield House is a beautiful activity centre whose facilities included an indoor swimming pool.

6 Dunfield House
A proud LOTC-accredited provider, Dunfield House offers an outstanding residential experience – a place to call home where children can improve their confidence, resilience, wellbeing and life skills. The friendly team offer a personal service, with 24/7 onsite managers, 3-star accommodation and healthy, wholesome meals with unlimited refreshments and biscuits. Varied lesson plans, developed by teachers, are available for self-directed learning. Dunfield caters for groups of 30–95, offering sole use of the house and/or stables accommodation. Most importantly, it offers a sanctuary where children develop their true potential, taking memories and new skills back to the classroom. For more information, call **01544 230 563** or visit **www.dunfieldhouse.org.uk**



7 Manor House Activity Centre
Established more than 30 years ago, the Manor House Activity & Development Centre is an independently owned and run, family-orientated centre offering high quality school trips. It offers full-board accommodation in a beautiful 18th century Manor House just outside Padstow, and can also offer sole-occupancy for your group. The activities on offer include sea cliff climbing, stand-up paddleboarding, surfing, kayaking, cycling and much more. Other options include field study trips, which may include rock pooling (with a marine biologist), visits to moorland, and coastal areas, and you may choose to include a workshop at the Eden Project, all included in the price. For more details, call **01841 540 346** or visit **www.manoractivitycentre.co.uk**

BOOK NOW AND SAVE
For 15% off for new 2019 Autumn term bookings, quote 'TSA18' when you book and confirm before 1 Feb 2019.



8 Kingswood

Founded over 30 years ago, Kingswood is an multi-award-winning operator of residential education and adventure centres across the UK and France, offering educationally rich activity breaks for schools and groups. Each Kingswood centre provides a safe environment for a varied selection of more than 60 indoor and outdoor activities and learning opportunities, ranging from kayaking and abseiling to problem-solving and curriculum-linked sessions. Its tailor-made programmes focus on a selection of learning outcomes, designed to achieve objectives from team building to personal development through the use of adventure activities.

For more information, visit kingswood.co.uk

9 Ringsfield Hall

Ringsfield Hall is an innovative centre for outdoor learning and nature connection, with 14.5 acres of woods, meadow and a homely Victorian house. On offer are crafted forest school and earth education programmes, infused with imagination, drama, and magic, all delivered by experienced practitioners with a child-led and eco-therapeutic approach. You can opt for a day visit or residentials, with facilities including an art barn, music studio and sports pitches. Other highlights include farm animals, fantastic home-cooked food and the freedom to explore!

Visit www.ringsfield-hall.co.uk or call **01502 713 020** for availability. Discounted rates are available for autumn and winter residentials.



READ MORE

Turn to page 25 to read more from the Lakeside centre's manager, Steve Scott, including details on the brand new South Camp building.

10 YMCA Lakeside

YMCA Lakeside is one of the largest and most scenic outdoor education centres in the UK. Set on the shores of Lake Windermere, this iconic centre has been hosting school residentials and transforming young lives for over 70 years. The state-of-the-art new schools facility, opening in 2019, will create an additional 200 beds and continue to provide outstanding learning outside the classroom activities.

For more information, visit www.lakesideymca.co.uk or call **01539 539 000** for a free schools pack and quotation.

The Outward Bound Trust

Five steps to helping your primary school's pupils learn to believe in themselves

TEACHING LIFE SKILLS

The Outward Bound Trust can help children learn to develop self-belief, independence, resilience and curiosity, leaving them better equipped for the life challenges ahead of them.

1 Try something new

Using the wilderness as a vast sensory classroom, The Trust's instructors guide pupils to see, touch, smell, drink from streams and even taste nature's fruits such as cobnuts, gorse leaves and wood sorrel.

2 Solve problems together

Visiting pupils and teachers, together with their instructors, can experience orienteering adventures up mountains and through valleys. Teams solve navigational

problems whilst hiking from point A to B, learning communication, leadership, map reading and compass skills.

3 Don't give up!

A full day mountain trekking teaches perseverance. The Trust's instructors support pupils so they motivate themselves intrinsically. Their reward? A stunning view at the summit, to see how far they have come, and a well-deserved brownie!

4 Reflect on learning

Sitting round a campfire in the evening, pupils have time to reflect on their achievements. They're invited to identify 'two stars and one wish' – two things that went well and one area in which they can improve the next day.

5 Achieve more

For some pupils it's scaling up or abseiling down a rock face, for others having a go at canoeing, gorge scrambling or a combination of every adventurous challenge they experience that instils the 'I can do this' mindset.



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LEARNING JOURNEYS

Workshop 1 – KS1 'Once Upon a Time'

Introducing a fantastic story-starter session for KS1 pupils! Discover the tools behind creating a story as your pupils are introduced to the concept of a beginning, middle and end, and connect a storyline by retelling fairy stories. They will also identify with characters through role play and work together to conquer Shrek's Spelling Bee before performing a short story. Curriculum links include spoken language through participation in discussions, presentation and performance, and reading comprehension through familiarity with fairy stories and traditional tales and discussing the sequencing of events and how items of information are related.

Workshop 2 – KS2 'Build your Story'

For budding storytellers this KS2 workshop will delve deeper into the role of characters, plot and the triumph of good over evil. Pupils will revisit the concept of a beginning, middle and end before establishing the need for characters and their role within a story. They will also explore the notion of 'heroes' and 'villains' and utilise role play to recreate characters and the emotions they evoke. Finally, they will explore the importance of setting in a story before creating and performing a short story. The workshop interlinks with spoken language through presentation and performance, and reading comprehension by drawing inferences such as inferring characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions.

WE LOVE TO LEARN

Step into story construction

Today's lesson will be storytelling, drama and the magic of fairy tales!

A fully interactive environment for inspiring pupils' active imaginations, DreamWorks Tours: Shrek's Adventure! London brings storytelling to life as pupils board a magical 4D flying bus to Far Far Away and embark on a thrilling adventure through 10 stimulating live shows. Aided by famous fairy-tale characters, pupils will find themselves working together to discover three magical ingredients

to help find Shrek and outwit the evil Rumpelstiltskin.

Accredited with the LOTC Quality Badge, the experience supports teaching KS1/KS2 English by reinforcing elements of story construction, providing familiarity with fairy tales and offering an insight into animation; the magic can then be continued back in the classroom with free cross-curricular lesson activity ideas.

CURRICULUM LINKS



ENGLISH

Learners identify the features and themes of different genres, including fairy tales, and understand that stories are developed with a beginning, a middle and an end.



ENGLISH

Pupils explore the process of characterisation in storytelling, and learn about what goes into building engaging characters.



DRAMA

Pupils are given the opportunity to infer the thoughts, feelings and motives of the characters they encounter through performance.





NEW & exclusive to NST

Trackable wristbands

- We can provide you with a wristband for every pupil on your trip
- Just download the app and set a warning range
- Get an immediate alarm if a child wanders out of range or gets left behind!

Get in touch with us to find out more...

Inspire learning

with an exciting school trip experience with NST

- We've been creating tours that inspire & educate children for more than 50 years
- We make it easier for you by organising your transport, accommodation & visits
- 24-hour support whilst on your trip is always just a phone call away
- Safety is at the heart of every NST school trip and we're ABTA & ATOL protected too



WE'RE THE EXPERTS

“There’s support at every step”

Discover a world of learning beyond the classroom with the help and reassurance of the school travel experts at NST

Why are NST the experts in school trips?

We have been creating tours that inspire pupils for over 50 years. Founded in 1967 by a maths teacher, who recognised the need to help organise school trips, we are now the largest educational tour operator in Europe. Our experienced and knowledgeable team work closely with teachers to ensure their trip meets their curriculum requirements and the needs of their group.

What sets you apart?

Our destinations have been chosen with primary school groups in mind. Our safe, secure accommodation options and range of engaging visits provide an ideal introduction to the world outside the classroom. From the moment you enquire you'll have your own dedicated contact who has extensive school travel knowledge and will go the extra mile to create a tour that enables your pupils to understand how they fit into the world around them.

What support do you offer?

By talking to teachers and following the customer journey, we have the resources available to help you at every stage of the school trip process:

Tailor-made quotes – no hidden costs, incorporating all visits, transportation, pupil-friendly accommodation and insurance.

Flexibility – we understand that it can take some time to gather deposits; just provide us with a realistic timescale and we can hold all arrangements for you until your deposits have been received.

Online trip organiser & travel app – all your paperwork in one place; features include a handy personalised tour checklist, instant access to your travel documents whilst on your trip, including contact numbers, and a map of the area with your hotel and visits pinpointed for you.

Trackable wristbands – download the app and set your own warning range to alert you if a child gets left



EXPERT PROFILE

Name: Michael Knowles

Job title: Senior Educational Travel Advisor

Area of expertise: Creating tailor-made experiences for primary school groups

Best part of my job: Hearing the fantastic feedback we receive from teachers

behind or wanders off.

24/7 support – whilst you're away, benefit from the support of NST's representatives, guides and escorts in many of our destinations, plus our 24-hour emergency cover.

What are the benefits for pupils and teachers?

There's no substitute for a real experience in the wider world to inspire pupils' imaginations. Learning outside the classroom not only boosts pupil engagement with learning, but also improves their knowledge, skills, understanding, self-confidence and wellbeing. What's more, a school trip fosters deeper relationships and boosts cohesion and a sense of belonging. On top of this, the experience will help develop teachers' pedagogical skills.

What feedback have you received?

Our teachers regularly leave us feedback telling us they have found their trips to be a perfect balance of fun activities and educational content. We pride ourselves on retaining our one-to-one support and providing exceptional customer service, and as such we've been awarded the Feefo Gold Service award – an independent seal of excellence that recognises businesses for delivering exceptional experiences, as rated by real customers.

ASK ME ABOUT

TAILORING YOUR TRIP – I can create a tour itinerary around any theme, from Tudors and Victorians to science, nature, maths, computing and languages.

SAMPLE ITINERARIES – Looking for inspiration? I can provide all the information you need with day-to-day timings in any destination of your choice.

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES – I can offer you exclusive educational materials to use on your trip and provide resources for pre-and post-trip tasks too.

www.nstgroup.co.uk T: 0845 293 7979 E: info@nstgroup.co.uk

How to plan YOUR TRIP OVERSEAS

The prospect of taking a group of primary pupils abroad might set butterflies fluttering in your stomach, but it needn't be a stressful experience...

STEVE CRAVEN



Nothing compares to time spent beyond the classroom when it comes to inspiring young minds. A school trip creates memories that last long after pupils step off the bus and return to the classroom, and time spent overseas can often ignite a new interest in languages, culture and the wider world.

However, planning a school trip – particularly when your destination lies outside the UK – can be a daunting task. With so much to organise, you could be forgiven for having reservations – but through good planning and preparation, success can be easily achieved, giving your pupils a unique

learning experience with far-reaching benefits when it comes to their education and development.

Here's some guidance to help get you started...

Long-lasting benefits

There are plenty of things to do within the UK; however, taking a relatively short trip to France, Germany or Spain can provide countless learning opportunities for your pupils. From their early years, young children are particularly good at picking up languages, so immersing them in whichever tongue they are learning as much as possible often proves to be very beneficial.

their first ice cream to (for the adventurous) tasting their first snail, children will have a bank of special memories and practical experience to draw upon in future.

And there's more – a trip overseas will give your pupils renewed enthusiasm; this leads to increased motivation and interest as they move through primary and up to secondary school. Your KS2 pupils will find themselves in a stronger position as they join language classes in KS3, where learners from various feeder schools will have differing levels of vocabulary, and children are far more likely to choose to continue with a language once they've been able to

“Visiting other countries broadens young minds, introducing children to new cultures and fascinating them with environments different to their own”

Having conversations in class is one thing, but giving children the chance to engage with native speakers in shops, or while on any visit you might arrange, automatically takes learning to another level – from the experience of buying

explore it in the real world.

Last but not least, it's not just about the languages. Visiting other countries during their formative years will broaden children's minds, introducing them to new cultures and perspectives,

and fascinating environments that differ from their own. It will help them understand other people's lives and beliefs through first-hand experience. There will be lots of small differences that will create interesting talking points, all things to build upon once back in the classroom.

Building confidence

This benefit of overseas visits deserves particular focus. For many young children, being away from home is a steep learning curve – and this is especially the case when they're staying in another country, with an added layer of unfamiliarity to deal with. They have to adapt to sharing a room with their friends, take care of their own possessions, respect others' belongings and make choices at meal times. But by being required to confront these challenges, the whole experience of being away will improve their relationships with their peers and their teachers; they will learn about themselves, become more confident, try new things and gain a better understanding of the world around them.

Learning outside the classroom (LOtC) is known to contribute significantly to raising standards and improving pupils' personal, social and emotional development.

Getting started

Ready to take the plunge? You should plan with clear learning objectives in order to meet your pupils' specific learning needs. Whether you have organised many school trips before or this is your first time, it's good practice to book through a reputable school tour operator. Chat with colleagues and do some online research to find the right provider for you. There are so many things to consider – financial security, educational content, health and safety, for starters – and you'll need to weigh up the balance of potential risks

against the benefits for pupils; however, the benefits of a well-planned trip will always outweigh the risks.

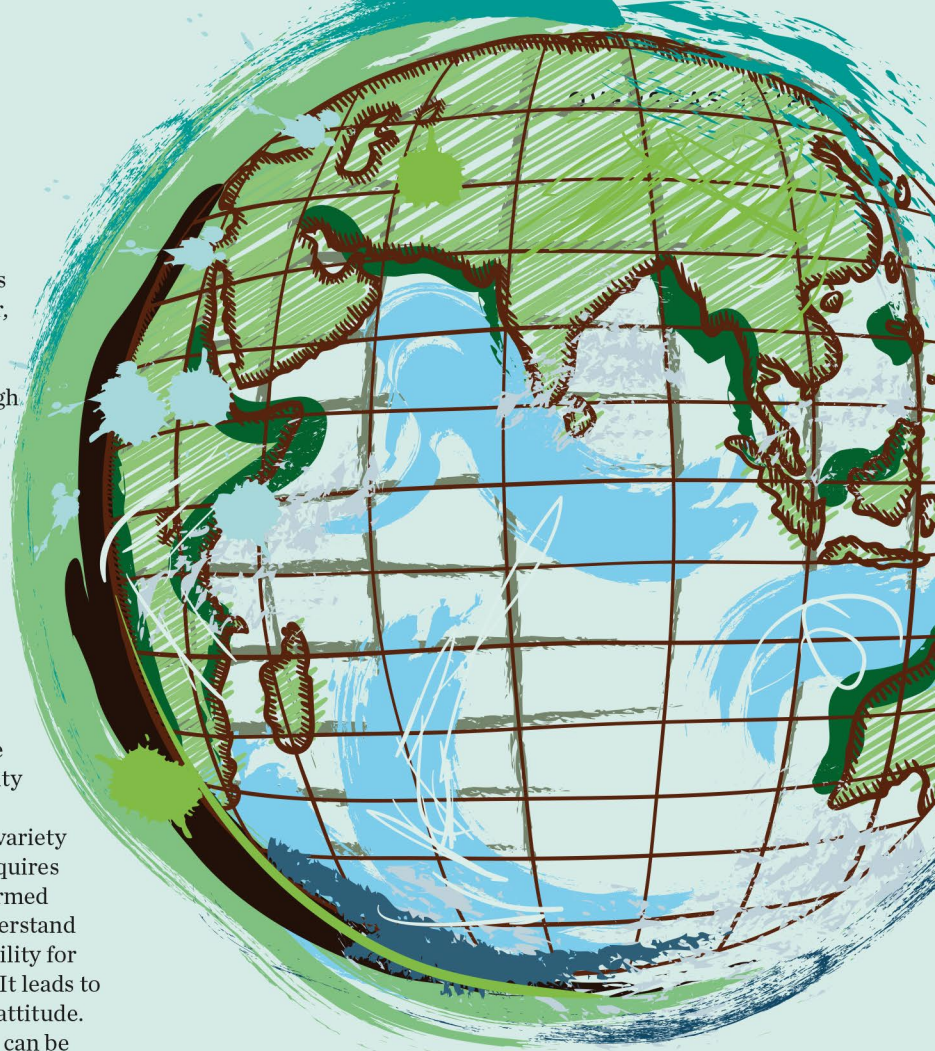
And if you're having second thoughts, keep in mind the assessment of the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom: "Learning outside the classroom helps young people to develop the ability to cope with and experience a wide variety of challenges. It requires them to make informed choices and to understand and take responsibility for the consequences. It leads to a positive 'can-do' attitude. Risk and challenge can be provided in all learning outside the classroom contexts – from activities within school grounds, to adventurous expeditions overseas. LOtC is statistically very safe."

Go on a preview visit

When you book through a school tour operator you can spend time discussing your needs and agree the objectives and outcomes. Your provider should offer you a preview visit, so you can check the accommodation, the visits you have planned and their locations, which will help you complete your risk assessments. This will also help you feel more confident about taking a group of young children to a foreign destination, as you'll be more familiar with the surroundings.



Steve Craven is director of NST Travel Group. Find out more at www.nstgroup.co.uk



YOUR PLANNING CHECKLIST

There's no escaping that the prospect of organising a primary trip abroad can be scary, but the reality really needn't be. Here are some points to keep in mind as you go about arranging what will be one of your pupils' most memorable school experiences.

- Book with an established tour operator to take the stress out of planning and for help and support before, during and after your trip. Make sure your provider is ABTA- and ATOL-protected so parents' money is safe from the moment you book.
- Plan well in advance to give yourself, your pupils and parents as much time as possible. This will give you more options to choose from, and parents more time to budget.
- Take time to choose the right destination; it goes without saying that you should be looking for somewhere that has safe and secure accommodation. Choose a place that is self-contained and quiet with lots of things to do close by.
- Make sure that you complete all the necessary risk assessments and go on a preview visit so that you are familiar and comfortable with where you'll be taking your pupils.
- Finally, get the most out of your budget by including lots of free visits and plan in a mix of fun and educational activities without overloading your itinerary.

5 MUST-HAVE SCHOOL TRIP

ACCESSORIES

Don't board the coach before you're certain that these essential items are safely packed in the luggage...

ATTENTION TO DETAIL

Price & Buckland hoodies feature twin needle stitching detailing, a double fabric hood, a ribbed cuff and hem, and a handy kangaroo pouch pocket.

1 Price & Buckland hoodies

Price & Buckland's hoodies are versatile garments that are perfect for leavers, trips and sports teams. There's a host of colours and designs to choose from, so you're almost certain to find a style that's perfect for your school... but if you can't, simply create your own – send Price & Buckland an image, and its design team will do the rest. Alternatively, get in touch to discuss your requirements.

Designs are available in one-colour and two-colour prints – for more information, call **0115 964 0827** or visit **www.price-buckland.co.uk**



2 Eureka 4 Schools first aid kit

A first aid kit is a collection of items you may need in case of an accident that requires basic medical treatment. Eureka 4 Schools offers a comprehensive range of options to suit every school's needs. Its HSE-compliant kits comply with the recommended content as set out in HSE First Aid Regulations, and it also offers BS8599-1-compliant workplace first aid kits that exceed HSE recommendations and comply with the latest British Standards.

For details, call **0800 358 0085** or visit **www.Eureka4Schools.co.uk**



DID YOU KNOW?
Medpac was born in 2011 when founder Jayne Tarrant's daughter Jessica was suffering from epilepsy when she started school.

3 Medpac

During school outings and residential trips alike it's vital that pupils' medicines are portable and easily accessible in an emergency. Medpac is a convenient solution – each one comes complete with a photo ID card and a treatment card for recording all essential information, and is ideal for asthma inhalers, EpiPens and Jext pens, diabetes and epilepsy medicine, and more!

Your school can be invoiced for Medpac purchases and there is no minimum order; however, if you spend over £200 you will receive a 5% discount.

To find out more, call **0845 073 9430** or visit **www.medpac.co.uk**

4 Educateoutside.com

It's well established that outdoor learning can have a hugely positive impact on students and is a really effective tool for learning. At educateoutside.com, you'll find lots of ideas across a wide range of topics to help you take your classroom outside, in the form of outdoor learning activity packs for teachers. Also available is a risk assessment creator tool that can be used to quickly and easily generate professional risk assessment forms for any school activity.

For more information, email **hello@educateoutside.com** or visit **www.educateoutside.com** / **www.facebook.com/EducateOutside**



5 TEAL Kiddiwash

Hand hygiene is a valuable lesson for children to learn at a young age, and it's something important to bear in mind if you're learning outside the classroom – especially in the colder winter months when washing hands plays an important role in minimising the spread of common, contagious infections such as colds. In support of teachers and pupils, TEAL has created the Kiddiwash range of portable hand-washing units, designed using feedback from nurseries and primary school users.

For more information, call **0121 770 0593** or visit **www.kiddiwash.com**



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All staff are DBS Enhanced checked and First Aid qualified.
All activity instructors hold the minimum required NGB (National Governing Body) qualification for their disciplines which they usually exceed due to their experience.

SCHOOL & YOUTH RESIDENTIALS | ADVENTURE EXPERIENCES | DUKE OF EDINBURGH | TEAM BUILDING

Your school trip packing list

Knowing what not to leave behind is essential to any successful visit abroad, wherever you may be going

Travel essentials

Whether you're flying or driving, there are certain things every student needs to enjoy their trip. Make sure everyone has their passport, EU health card, travel insurance, travel money and emergency contacts before setting foot outside the school gates.

Student essentials

Your children will have other essentials in mind. Ensuring they have a fully charged smart phone, charger cable, headphones and enough data allowance to Snapchat and Instagram their entire trip to the world will be top of their priority list.

The right clothing

Your class will want to ensure they look stylish the entire trip, which Price & Buckland has covered. Make sure they stand out from the crowd with a personalised trip hoodie from the extensive range on offer. Don't forget some comfy trainers too!

And relax...

Once everything and everyone is accounted for, put your feet up and enjoy the ride – at least until you arrive at your destination. Take in the sights, absorb the culture, learn something new and enjoy your trip!

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“Active adventures OFFER GREAT VALUE”

Investing in school trips that get pupils excited, working together and exercising both their mental and physical muscles is a real no-brainer...

EDDIE KEMSLEY

It's been three months since Philip Hammond pledged £400 million to schools as an “in-year bonus” in his October 2018 budget, funding that he said would help schools “buy the little extras they need”. This statement, quite rightly, was greeted by a backlash from teachers at the time, schools having been subjected to enormous budget cuts over the past four years and having to resort

to begging for basic school equipment.

But whilst the original statement might have been loaded to the nines, perhaps it's worth approaching Hammond's words from a different perspective...

Money well spent

As always, it's been a wonderful eye-opener spending time with my own children over the holidays. School's out and it's all been fun, fun, fun in our house – but children

are like sponges and that instinctive ability to learn and absorb information doesn't just disappear the moment they step outside the classroom. I watched them play with their new toys, learning to share, debate, empathise and be independent. Child development is by no means restricted to school so perhaps we should treat the chancellor's ‘little extras’ as those ‘extra-curricular’ activities that don't necessarily fall into the current syllabus, but which aid development and learning on a very different level.

Take school trips, for example. In my role as KidZania's CEO I've worked closely with schools, teachers and PTA groups for the past three years and I know that organising a class trip is no easy feat. It takes months of planning – not to mention the fact that it eats into already tight budgets – so it's sometimes really difficult to justify doing them.

But the value of active learning outside the classroom is not to be underestimated. In fact, I am a firm believer that

out-of-school experiences can aid academic education in really exciting ways, as well as teach kids the vital life skills that come with having to take responsibility for themselves in the real world. Here's why...

“School trips create opportunities to fill gaps in the curriculum and spark new interest in academic study.”

When planning any school trip, I realise it's important to think about not only how it can assist with what kids are already learning as part of the national curriculum, but also how a trip could potentially build on the syllabus or fill a gap in their programme of study. When you take a trip, it's less about learning lessons from a textbook and more about exposing young minds to experiences, people, subjects and skills that can help shape and inspire their views and opinions of the world around them. As a result, trips can also spark a newfound interest for what is learned in the classroom, having expanded children's horizons to a new idea or skillset.

● School trips that can bring what are perceived as boring or inaccessible subjects and careers to life in new, interactive, interesting ways are worth their weight in gold. Teachers can then take this energy back to the classroom and apply real experience to academic study.



THREE THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN BOOKING YOUR SCHOOL TRIP

- Don't be afraid to go the less obvious route – pick venues that are varied and offer something totally different to the classroom.
- Think about the wider skills and ideas you want your class to take away beyond just academic objectives – it's not only about what they learn, but how they learn it and what they can take back to the classroom.
- Choose an activity or venue that promotes maximum independence. Learning through doing and thinking independently will challenge young minds to go one step further.

“Reversing the teacher/pupil dynamic promotes independent thinking and discovery.”

In a classroom environment, the teacher/pupil balance will always prioritise the teacher as the primary educator, leader and guide. Take children out of this environment and they start to establish greater awareness of their sense of self in the world and are encouraged to become more responsible for themselves, their safety and their views. Ultimately, class trips give kids the chance to interact with people, places and things that they wouldn't usually come into contact with in new, interesting ways. The outcome therefore is about them learning how to react to those new experiences without being told what to do, say and think.

- Encouraging independence doesn't mean letting the kids

run amok, but giving them autonomy in a controlled environment. Look for activity centres and other attractions that encourage children to think, behave and do things for themselves. In my experience, teachers report back quite often that they see a 'maturation of self' when kids get back into the classroom following these types of trips, with the ability to think bigger and communicate opinions more effectively.

“It's not all about academic study – trips teach kids essential life skills too.”

Closely linked to the point above, school trips really seem to assist with teaching children some of those more practical life skills outside typical academic studies learned in the classroom.

“Encouraging independence doesn't mean letting the kids run amok, but giving them autonomy in a controlled environment”



Though skills such as creative thinking and problem solving

are encouraged in schools, putting kids into an external environment where they need to use these skills practically in order to achieve tangible outcomes is hugely valuable.

- Having access to practical activities that rely on skills such as teamwork and good communication within a group in order to produce a tangible outcome can do wonders for your children's development, even in the absence of a link to your topic or wider curriculum.

“The emotional and physical benefits of learning outside the classroom are priceless.”

School offers routine for children and it is great for those who naturally excel in a classroom environment, but it's trickier for pupils who perhaps struggle to fit in socially or academically. These children can really struggle with communication, confidence and self-esteem.

- Taking these pupils out of their routine environment,

whether they naturally excel in school or not, can help them develop a new emotional outlook by giving them a window into the different worlds, people and opportunities around them. I often discuss with teachers how the quieter children in school seem to thrive at KidZania.

On the most basic level, 'activity-based' schools trips also encourage kids to get active. The school day is long and with the rising popularity of computer games and mobile entertainment devices, finding scope to get pupils up and running around is more important than ever. Releasing some of that pent-up energy can only be a positive thing.



Eddie Kemsley is CEO at KidZania London, an indoor city for kids

that blends learning and reality with entertainment. Visit www.KidZania.co.uk/education



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London

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Whatever their interests, your class' four hours at **KidZania** will be fantastic fun and full of learning...



10am

Once you arrive at Westfield London, head straight into KidZania London and to the top floor to check in at the Airport. The friendly team will help guide you, first asking your pupils to drop off their bags in storage and then to have their security wristbands put on. All children will receive 50 kidZos and hairnets, and have their wristbands activated.

10.30am

See your pupils go "Wow!" as they enter the city and receive details at the Job Information Centre about KidZania and what to do. Explore the city with your pupils; encourage them to make a visit at the Surgery and Maternity Ward, where science is brought to life as they care for human bodies. Then it's on to the Radio Station to perfect their communication skills, reading scripts for broadcast.

11am

The upstairs opens, giving even greater choice of activities! Pupils can learn how to fly a plane in the simulator at the Aviation Academy and be a technician in the TV Studio, where they can help their team to present the news and weather. They can also use their maths learning by weighing ingredients at the Fruit and Nut Bar Makery.

12pm

Having used all that energy it's time to refuel. Organising lunch at KidZania is easy; you will have been informed at check-in about your dedicated area in the city and time slot for lunch.

1.30pm

There's time for one more activity – will it be keeping active at Just Dance or



BOOK NOW!

Check out KidZania's 2019 school calendar for educational events, including a Science Week in March and STEM Fair in June.

Stadium? Perhaps tapping the drums to the beat at the Music Academy? Remember, if children have 75 kidZos they can open a bank account.

2pm

Your four hours are up! All pupils must depart and go through Immigration, where their wristbands will be removed. There's a chance then for pupils to spend their hard-earned kidZos at the Airport shop.

{ BEFORE YOU GO }

PLAN

Encourage pupils to make the most of their trip by planning and understanding earning and spending. Visit the website for descriptions of activities and download a map of the city.

LEARN

Excite your pupils for their trip ahead using pre-visit and follow-up learning resources for Key Stage 1–3, all available to download for free from the website.

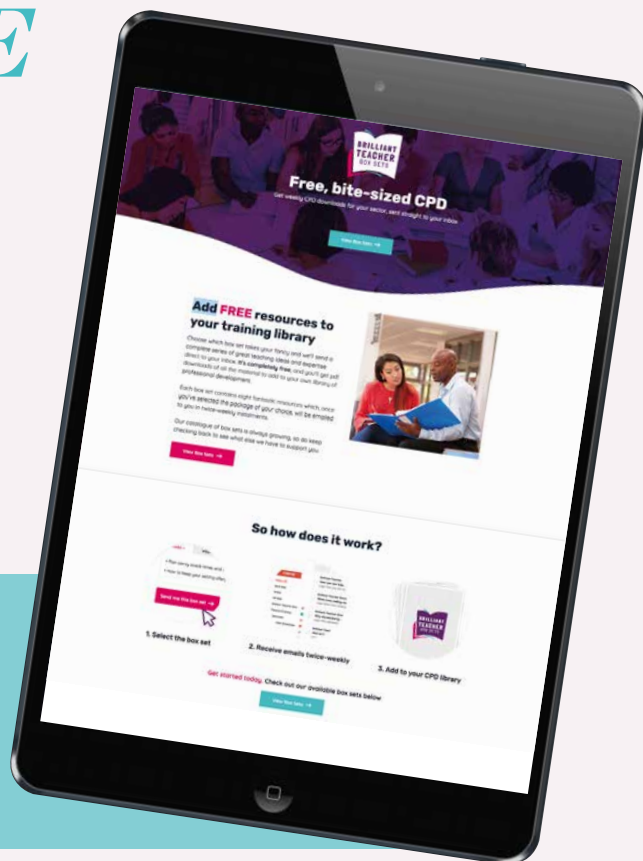
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What else is trending on Teachwire.net?

1 GREATER DEPTH WRITING

It can be quite difficult to put your finger on exactly what 'greater depth' writing is. Even three years after the introduction of the teacher assessment framework, there are still misconceptions abound, particularly at the upper range of pupils' writing. Quite often, you know it when you read it aloud, but aside from the teacher assessment framework, use these critical

indicators from Tim Roach to help guide you towards a definition of what a 'greater depth' writer looks like. tinyurl.com/tpdepth

2 KENSUKE'S KINGDOM

Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo won Teacher's Choice in the most recent Teach Primary Book Awards and is packed with exciting cross-curricular themes. Use these ideas by literacy expert Carey Fluker

Hunt to explore the book and its themes in your KS2 classroom. tinyurl.com/tpkensuke

3 MATHS ASSESSMENT

Beth Smith, senior primary maths specialist for White Rose Maths, explains how to ensure your maths monitoring is purposeful by focusing on five key areas. Explore the benefits of spaced repetition, low-stakes testing and classroom talk. tinyurl.com/tpbethsmith

4 GRAMMAR GAMES

Rob Smith and Katherine Simpson, creators of The Literacy Shed, have dreamt up these quick and practical ideas that are perfect for dipping in and out of during literacy lessons. tinyurl.com/tpshed



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SPARK THEIR PASSION FOR STEM

The best way to make science, technology, engineering and maths irresistible to young learners is to explore them through exciting real-world experiences...

LUCY COATES

Children are inherently passionate – you see it when they run in from the playground to tell you about the game they just played with their friends, or when they talk to you for hours about their favourite book. Enthusiasm comes naturally to them. Why, then, do we not always see this same enthusiasm on show at the end of a science or maths lesson? Why don't children rush onto the playground to tell their friends about the fact

that a rock and a piece of paper fall at the same speed – and why does that matter?

A recent study, 'Jobs of the Future' (bit.do/JotF), found that there will be almost 150,000 new jobs in science, technology, engineering and maths – the STEM subjects, as they've been dubbed –

between now and 2023. They also found that there is likely to be a large shortfall of skilled individuals to fill these roles. It is so important, therefore, that we foster a passion in our students for STEM. It is our responsibility to inspire young minds in a way that will help shape the future.

STEM in action

There can be few better ways to boost children's enthusiasm for STEM than to show them it in real life. Taking children outside of a classroom environment is proven to be one of the best ways to engage them in their learning. As the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom puts it, "Real-world learning brings the benefits of formal and informal education together and reinforces what good educationalists have always known: that the most

meaningful learning occurs through acquiring knowledge and skills through real-life, practical or hands-on activities."

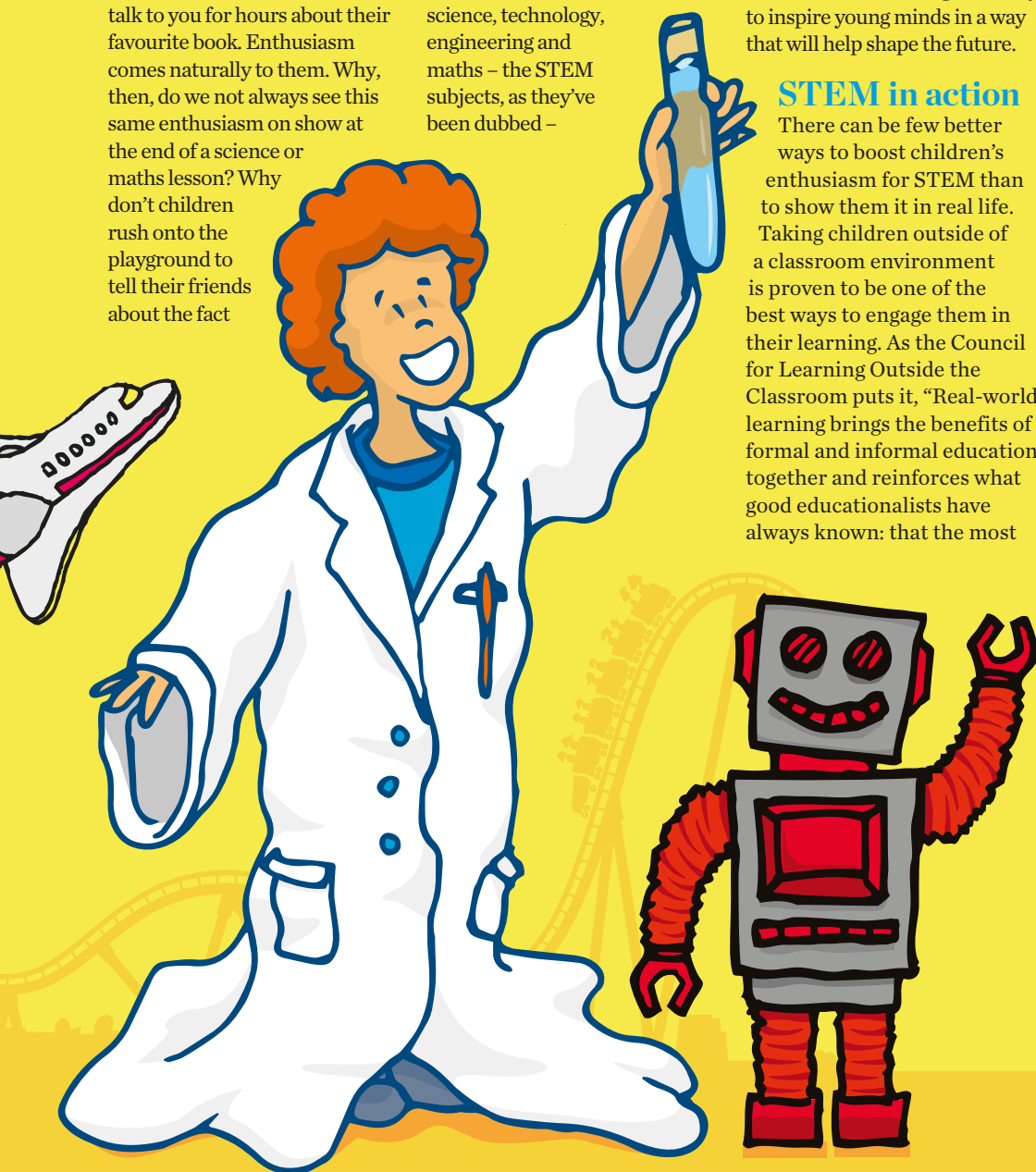
Many people think of school trips as just an end-of-topic wrap-up or a reward for good attendance, but the truth is that they can also be a stepping stone into a new-found passion for a topic – and STEM subjects are no exception.

Inspiring experiences

So how do you go about introducing a more hands-on approach to your children's STEM lessons? Well, you could simply change your planning to incorporate learning in the school grounds, but why not go further?

For example, imagine talking to your pupils about space, explaining the different planets and stars; "It's amazing!" you say as you show a picture on your smart board. Imagine then, if you will, taking them to a planetarium where they can be immersed in their learning as they see the planets and stars in front of their wide eyes – where they can actually comprehend the information you shared with them in the classroom. Which do you think they are more likely to be excited by?

The possibilities are endless. Why not take students to a theme park and allow



them to feel G-force in action as they shoot through the air at 80mph on a roller coaster? Why not spend the day in a forest with your early years students getting muddy, collecting different types of leaves and building shelters? In all these situations you will be putting STEM subjects into a context that is so much fun, your students will be learning without even realising it. And what's more, they will remember it!

Think back to your time at school. I bet you can remember the school trips you went on – I certainly can! I remember going to an outdoor museum

can use equations in their science lessons to help prove a hypothesis. Those who understand geometry can think logically about how to build strong structures in their DT lessons. The skills are transferable and will support their learning right through into the secondary years and beyond. Getting young children engaged is easy... when you make the learning fun!

Uncover hidden talents

Finally, have you ever noticed that when you take children into an unusual environment, different individuals shine?

“Take students to a theme park and they’ll feel G-force in action as they shoot through the air on a roller coaster!”

and learning how to grind grain into flour. When we got back to school, we used the flour that we had made to bake biscuits in our DT class. I can't have been more than eight years old, yet I remember it as clearly as if it were yesterday. These experiences stay with you.

And if you're worried about Ofsted, don't be! A 2008 report by Ofsted not only recognised but also praised the impact of well-planned school trips and the positive benefits they have on children's engagement and outcomes.

Catch them early

Returning to the idea of passion, I believe it is especially important to get younger children engaged in STEM subjects. Once a young person finds a passion for something, it is a feeling that can be harnessed and fostered throughout the rest of their education. Children in primary school who are able to use algebra in maths

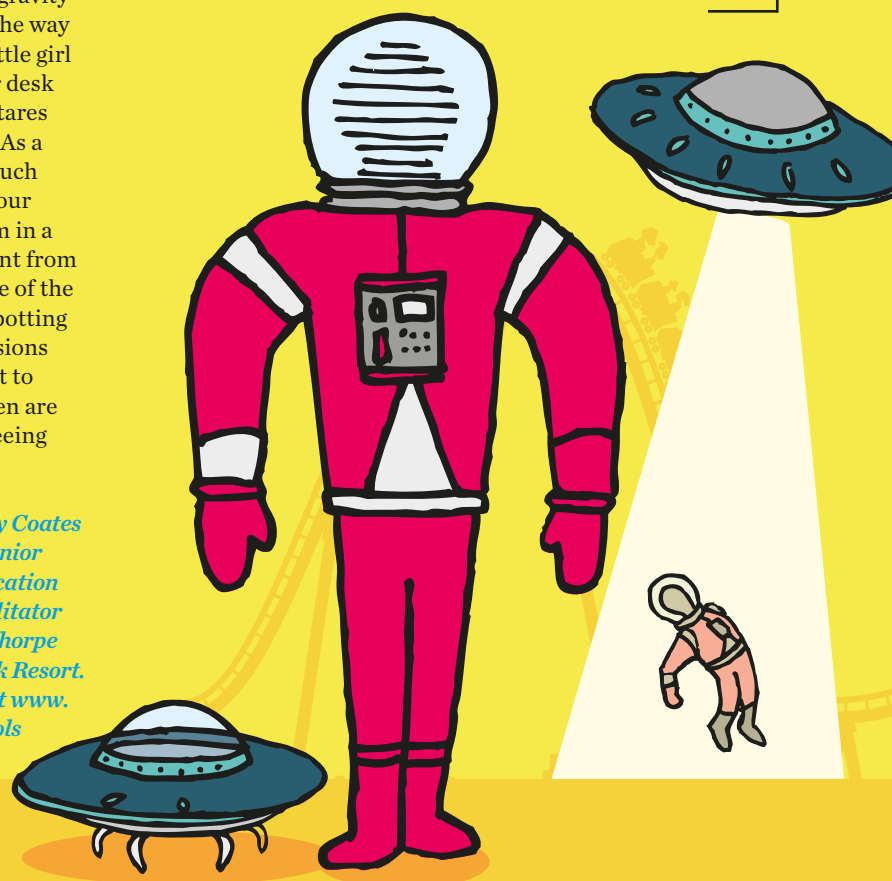
That quiet boy who keeps himself to himself in school suddenly comes out of his shell and tells you all about how to measure the speed of a roller coaster and how gravity ensures it makes it all the way along the tracks. The little girl who can't sit still at her desk is struck dumb as she stares in awe at the night sky. As a teacher, you learn so much about the children in your care when you put them in a situation that is different from the norm. Being outside of the classroom is a way of spotting hidden talents and passions – what better way to get to know what your children are interested in than by seeing it first hand!



Lucy Coates is senior education facilitator at Thorpe Park Resort. Visit www.thorpepark.co.uk/schools

PLANNING A STEM SCHOOL TRIP? HERE'S HOW TO GET STARTED

- Ask yourself some questions: What do I want my students to learn? Where would be an interesting place for them to learn? Who can help them understand?
- Look for accreditations and partnerships – does your preferred destination hold the Quality Badge for Learning Outside the Classroom? Do they work with trusted education brands?
- Don't be afraid to travel; the shortest journey time may not offer you the best quality.
- Get in touch – check the details before making your decision; you want the best experience for your pupils!
- Look at the content on offer. What areas of STEM does it cover and how does the location foster learning? Is it cross-curricular? Can you continue the learning back at school?
- Speak to your class to get to know what they find exciting. If you can link this to their learning, they are instantly going to be engaged!
- Consider making it a residential – staying for more than one day can help to ingrain learning as well as allowing children to build friendships, confidence and social skills.



What kids learn from A DAY AT THE ZOO

Be they creatures exotic or domestic, using your away day to get up-close to members of the animal kingdom can be an invaluable educational experience...

As exciting as a day out with the animals can be, it shouldn't be considered merely a treat – there are so many learning opportunities to take advantage of. At Monkey World, we see school groups of all ages come in and enjoy their day out... and all take away something slightly different. This is partly because animals are not predictable, and that old adage 'never work with children or animals' should be kept in mind when planning a day out to your local rescue centre or safari park! But so should the many reasons for booking a trip to the zoo...

Learn outdoors

The benefits of exercise on young minds and bodies cannot be overstated. Simply moving around the park in the great

outdoors is usually enough to stimulate discussions with reticent students, and so often you see children animated and running ahead to the next enclosure. Even the biggest couch potato will feel wistful at the freedom of the gibbons swinging through the trees, graceful antelope or darting fish. Children love imitating what they have seen, and at Monkey World this usually ends with the whole group energetically blowing off steam in the huge Great Ape play area.

Cover the curriculum

Many zoos provide great educational experiences these days and display lots of information around the enclosures that can be built upon to link to learning

across the curriculum. A child who finds maths a struggle, for example, may be more enthused by the opportunity to calculate how much dung an elephant could produce a day, given the right factors! As well as the obvious science links of evolution, ecosystems and adaptations, you will find the humanities covered too. The artistic can take influence from nature by looking at the mixture of colours in the enclosures, or coat patterns and camouflages. Budding musicians will hear symphonies of gibbon calls, birdsong and insect noises – and as both Beethoven and Wagner took inspiration from nature, they will be in good company. We know all too well that teachers have to achieve learning outcomes, but a visit to a zoo or safari park will enable you to get creative with the curriculum.

Focus on the animals

So many teachers have commented to us over the years how an animal-focused activity can engage all kinds of learners, capturing their attention in a way that other activities struggle to match. One little girl who visited us, a notoriously shy member of the class, became visibly animated when she realised how she could create a chain reaction if she passed on what she had learnt about animal welfare to other people (if she told just 10 people about the cruel use of animals as photographers' props in tourist attractions abroad, they might tell 10 more, and so on – and maybe the practice would decline as a result... All down to her!).

The hands-on activities offered in workshops at many wildlife parks motivate those who may struggle in a classroom environment, and push the academically gifted out of their comfort zones.

Often, children seem to have an intuitive understanding of animals' behaviour that their teachers simply can't match – and this can be both empowering and inspiring. You often see this with primates: as children watch the apes or monkeys interact in groups, they can pick out the friendships, rivalries and fallings-out between the individuals. Their observations are frequently corroborated by the keepers or zoo education team, whilst the accompanying adults are none the wiser!





Connect with nature

Children are enjoying less and less exposure to animals, nature and plants, and sometimes the only wildlife they encounter comes in an urban context. A trip to an animal centre can combat this nature deficit and allow some of the information shared in the classroom on ecosystems, rainforests and life cycles to be made more tangible, affording greater understanding and appreciation.

Most zoos and wildlife parks have a nature trail or walk too, where students can connect with the countryside as well as exotic species from far-flung countries. Part of zoos' appeal is the ability to get up close to some of the most unusual creatures in the world, many of which most school children can recognise. This can spark discussion about our native species – how many children know that we must try to save tigers, orangutans and elephants from extinction, but have no idea that Britain's own red squirrels, hedgehogs and hares are also at risk?

Teach social responsibility

Before your visit, it's a good idea to start a conversation with your pupils about the purpose of zoos and rescue centres. Open children's

eyes to the reasons why the animals are there – not to provide entertainment, but for education and conservation. Many of the animals seen are endangered in the wild, mainly due to human impact. Wildlife populations have dropped by 60% since the 1970s, and the next generation are the ones who can do something about it. From the use of plastic to poaching, the wider ethical stories surrounding the cute animals are worth probing and discussing to help develop young minds. A sense of social responsibility is easy to instil in even the most apathetic pupils when they stand face to face with one of the only rhinos left in the world, or an

orangutan who has seen its family butchered and been smuggled from the wild for the illegal pet trade. Tomorrow's conservationists are today's school children, and their passion can arise from an educational visit to a wildlife park or rescue centre.

Don't miss out!

Whilst most animal park visits are a welcome (and literal) breath of fresh air, a break from the classroom mid term, there should be far more on the itinerary than just monkeying around. Animals can motivate learners and bring the curriculum to life. Nothing beats the first time you see a rare animal up close that they have previously only seen on TV. You'll find reluctant pupils want to get involved, and quiet children are eager to talk about the experience. Book a trip to a rescue centre or wildlife park, and allow a little animal magic into your classroom this year.

This article was written by the education team at Monkey World. For more information, visit monkeyworld.org

HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR DAY

1. PREPARE FOR THE WEATHER

Most safari parks and zoos are outside, and there is nothing worse than having to herd 40 pupils back onto a bus shivering and soggy... or fainting and parched!

2. SCHEDULE A KEEPER TALK

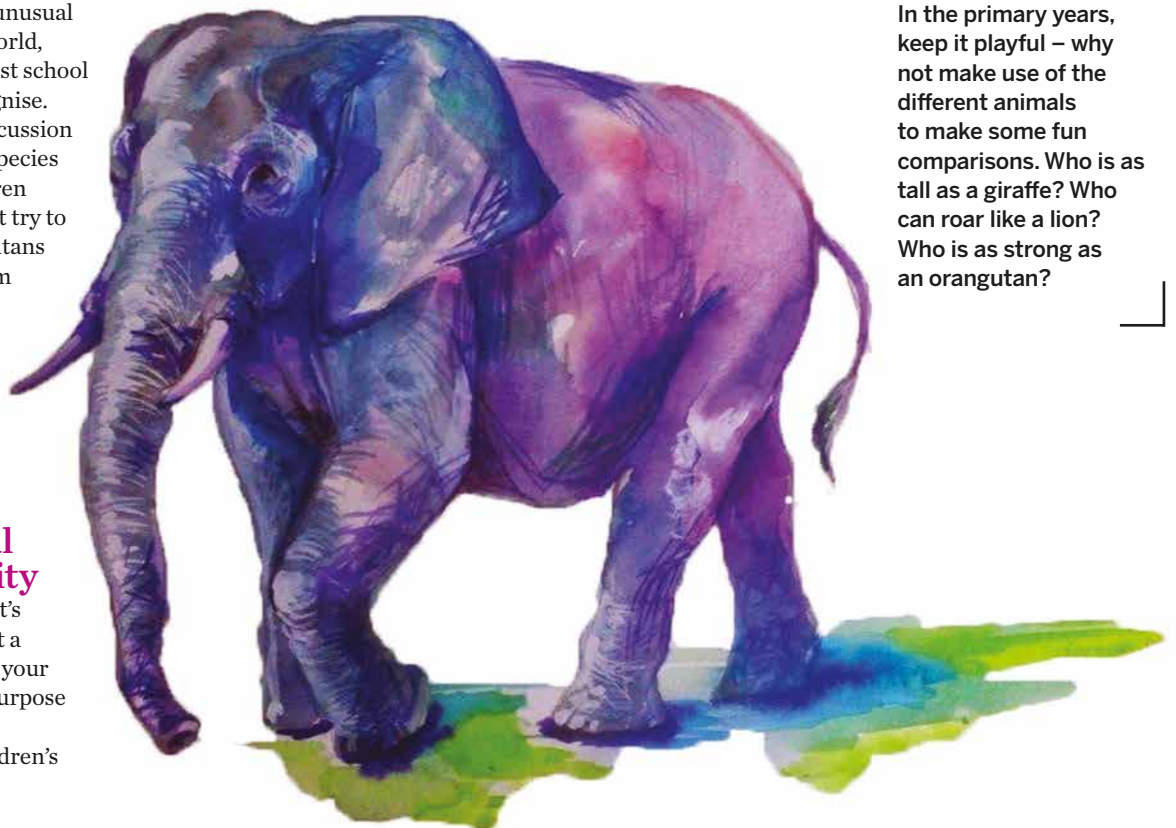
Passionate zookeepers are sure to inspire pupils with their knowledge and enthusiasm for their role, so be sure to seek them out.

3. ENCOURAGE RESEARCH

Explore the issues behind the animals before and after your trip. Discuss conservation, wildlife decline and animal exploitation, and how the zoo world is helping with these issues.

4. HAVE FUN!

In the primary years, keep it playful – why not make use of the different animals to make some fun comparisons. Who is as tall as a giraffe? Who can roar like a lion? Who is as strong as an orangutan?



7 SCHOOL TRIPS

you might not have considered

Reject the traditional and offer your pupils something they weren't expecting...



1

GO TREASURE HUNTING!

Dive into an imaginary swashbuckling world of adventure and exploration with the V&A Museum of Childhood's free 'A Pirate's Life for Me' exhibition (runs until 22 April). www.vam.ac.uk/moc

2 GO ITALIAN!

Branches of restaurant chain Pizza Express offer school groups the chance to learn about food, taste ingredients and have a go at making the iconic Italian dish. www.pizzaexpress.com



3 GO NUCLEAR!

Contact EDF Energy to pay a visit to one of its eight purpose-built visitor centres and take a tour of a working nuclear power station. www.edfenergy.com



4

GO TO MARS!

The National Space Centre's Challenger Learning Centre is an "educational space mission simulator" and it needs your class for a crew! www.spacecentre.co.uk



5 GO UNDERGROUND!

For an alternative take on electricity generation, head to the spectacular 'hollow mountain' of Cruachan Power Station in Scotland. www.visitcruachan.co.uk

GO ON A GHOST WALK!

Enjoy some spooky (but child-friendly) early evening entertainment as part of a residential trip with the Ghost Trail of York. www.ghosttrail.co.uk

6



7

GO SKYDIVING!

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