

TOP.....! SCHOOL #3 TRIPS

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Inspire future scientists

FOREST BATHING

Reconnect with nature

LIVING HISTORY

Teach timelines

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**teach
PRIMARY**



Aashika's breaking news

It started with a trip to Sky Academy Studios. A chance to go behind the scenes, to get to grips with the cameras, and present from behind a Sky desk.

But ever since she set foot backstage, Aashika has been obsessed with becoming a news reader. Now she's documenting everything from the family breakfast to her little brother's haircut.

It's this creativity that Sky Academy Studios was built to inspire. Since its launch in 2012, it's opened the minds of over 166,000 children, developing their curiosity, collaboration and communication and providing an experience they might never have accessed.

Giving young people, just like Aashika, the belief they can have a future in film and TV.

sky
believe in better

Hello...



Did you know that over half a million children missed out on school residential during the Covid pandemic? And what's more, over two million young people faced lockdown without access to a garden or local green space. With school trips finally back on the cards (hurrah!), it's clear that learning outside the classroom is more important than ever in supporting young people's personal, social and academic progress as we all get back on track.

As you'll read about over the course of the following pages, school trips are fantastic opportunities to build confidence and boost self-esteem – to get children exercising in the fresh air and trying activities they might otherwise never have access too, whether that's throwing themselves off a trapeze or sleeping under the stars. Days away can give pupils a valuable taste of independence and broaden horizons in a way that can have a lifelong positive impact. They can also generate genuine conversations, running jokes and beautiful shared memories that you can return to again and again over the course of a school year, helping you to forge true connections with your pupils.

But don't forget that – whisper it – trips should also be enjoyable for the adults. You put enough hard work into organising them, so make sure you reap the benefits too (see more on p14).

While we're all too aware that dwindling budgets, staffing issues and curriculum pressures are an ever-present problem, we hope that there's plenty of advice and inspiration in this issue to help you plan an excursion that's right for your class, whether that's a spot of forest bathing (p33), a dash of Shakespeare (p23) or something entirely different.

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Take pupils somewhere new and fascinating this year, with these brilliant school trip ideas.



www.magicoftheatre.com

M&M Theatrical Productions are totally committed to combining theatre with education, providing superb value for money productions that are innovative, magical, colourful and, most importantly, wonderfully captivating. We believe that the best way to teach children is by telling a story.

We call it **The Magic of Theatre.**



Classic Literature Adaptations



Stagecraft Workshop



Pantomimes



Teacher Resource Packs

"The sets, costumes and equipment are excellent and continue to improve if that is possible. I have been using M&M Theatrical Productions for almost 15 years now and it seems that every year the productions get better and better."

IDEAS & INSIGHTS

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

Trips for health & happiness

English Heritage is urging schools to starting visiting again

Despite being one of the UK's largest providers of school trips, English Heritage welcomed a mere fraction of its average educational visitors last year. In 20/21, just over 4,000 students visited, down almost 99% on normal annual figures of 340,000.

With studies consistently showing that children's mental health has worsened during the pandemic, Kate Mavor, chief executive of English Heritage, said, "We are extremely hopeful that by encouraging more schools to return to educational visits, we can play our part in the process of levelling up and improving the wellbeing of children from every community. I am personally inviting teachers up and down the country to bring their pupils to one of our historic sites and to see for themselves the huge benefits the experience can bring, not just to children's learning, but also their health and happiness."

MORE DETAILS

For 2022, the charity has appointed 38 new volunteers and created new teachers' kits and downloadable resources. Expert-led visits have been revised, with a greater number now SEN appropriate. Book at english-heritage.org.uk/learn



"Connecting with a building that has stood for many centuries is a deeply grounding and rewarding experience"

— KATE MAVOR, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, ENGLISH HERITAGE —

New London transport workshops

London Transport Museum launches new workshops for KS1 and KS2 pupils

In reach of Covent Garden? London Transport Museum is welcoming back school groups with two new workshops for KS1 and KS2 pupils. In Caribbean Journeys, KS2 pupils will learn about the diverse careers of London Transport's Caribbean workforce. The 50-minute session covers ideas around inclusion and identity, helping children develop and practise their empathy, enquiry, listening and communication skills.

A story-telling session will uncover how Caribbean culture has shaped the way Londoners live and travel.

In Joe's Busy Bus, KS1 children can join Joe Clough on a time travelling adventure as he searches for his missing hat in vehicles from across the ages. During this actor-led session, your class will have to piece together mysterious clues left by passengers on Joe's bus.

Downloadable activities are available for teachers to enhance and embed learning back in the classroom. While visiting, school groups can also take part in a self-guided visit to explore the museum's galleries. Find out more by visiting ltmuseum.co.uk/schools.





Letting off STEAM

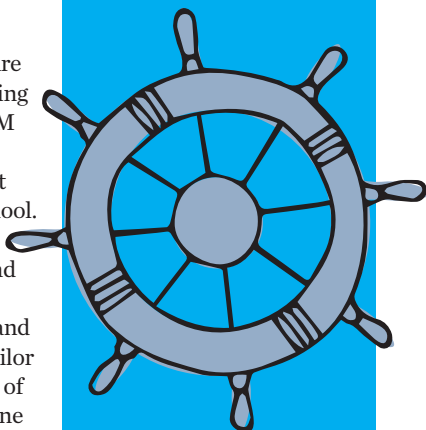
A 300-year-old silk mill in Derby has had a multi-million-pound makeover and is now the Museum of Making. Celebrating three centuries of industry in the city, the museum houses 30,000 exhibits, including a model railway and a tiny engine run using a human hair. The education team are on hand to facilitate engaging and award-winning STEAM sessions to challenge and excite your pupils, either at the museum or in your school. Workshops are mapped to the national curriculum and are richly resourced with original or replica objects and costumes. The team can tailor sessions to meet the needs of your learners and free online STEAM-themed CPD is also on offer for teachers. Find out more at derbymuseums.org

Get a £500 grant

Want to get pupils learning outdoors but need help financing it? The EVOLVEAdvice Get Out! grant is open to UK primary schools. Each month, a £500 grant is awarded which can be used for equipment purchase, specialist training, travel or resources – all with the goal of getting children out and about. A recent successful bid allowed a primary school to buy tools and outdoor wear to enable pupils to make the most of the school's new allotment. Find out more at evolveadvice.co.uk/grants

NIGHT IN THE NAVY

Take part in a unique overnight stay experience in Chatham, Kent, on board second world war destroyer HMS Cavalier. Sleeping in real ships bunks, young explorers will get first-hand experience of what life was like on board and can take part in an evening programme of fun naval-themed activities, followed by breakfast in the mess deck. Visit thedockyard.co.uk



Up, up & away

Manchester Airport unveils its brand new education centre

Manchester Airport has recently unveiled a state-of-the-art education centre aimed at inspiring future generations about a career in aviation. AeroZone is expected to welcome more than 5,000 children and young people aged between four and 18 every year, with curriculum-linked sessions focused on the wide range of careers available in aviation.

Cutting-edge design and educational technology will be used to link aviation-related activities to the curriculum. The centre offers a mix of classroom space and interactive zones and features a cabin with real seats and a cockpit, complete with flight simulator.

A dedicated careers wall showcases the wide range of careers available in aviation.



Airport staff also appear as guest speakers, giving youngsters the chance to put questions to them.

Aviation minister Robert Courts said: "Providing clear paths for young people to get into our brilliant aviation industry is absolutely crucial as it bounces back from the pandemic and faces up to the challenges of climate change. We want the next wave of talent to think big and the Aerozone at Manchester Airport gives pupils of all ages the chance to do that." Find out more at manchesterairport.co.uk/education

NEWS IN BRIEF

CULTURAL EDUCATION

Charity Curious Minds works to make creative and cultural learning opportunities available to all children, wherever they live and whatever their

name and zoom in to find out more about the expertise that exists in your area. Search the map at culturalmap.curiousminds.org.uk

VIRTUAL VISIT

Nestlé has developed an interactive virtual school trips platform for KS2 children. Visit a wind farm, dairy farm or coffee factory, watch interactive videos and take part in quizzes and games, alongside children's TV presenter Rhys Stephenson. Visit via a projector or on individual computers or tablets. Start your virtual school trip experience by heading to the website at nestletrips.com



circumstance. Visit its website to find a creative providers map, which aims to connect schools with cultural educators who can deliver enriching learning experiences to pupils. You can search for creative providers by postcode or place

METaverse MUSEUM

Holo-Museum is an accessible way for pupils to virtually visit museums using desktop augmented reality technology. They'll be able to explore exhibits like the steam locomotive Stephenson's Rocket, currently housed in York's National Railway Museum, without leaving the classroom. Apply for free 3D glasses at holo-museum.com/school-partnership-program.

English Heritage

Want a history trip for your KS1 or 2 class?
Look no further with these five great options...

BOOK NOW!

Get free access to all English Heritage properties when you book in advance, and make use of free planning visits and specially designed learning resources.

1 Stonehenge, Wiltshire

It would be hard to find a better site to help you cover Neolithic hunter-gatherers and Bronze Age religion than world-famous Stonehenge, the most outstanding prehistoric monument in the British Isles.

2 Battle Abbey, East Sussex

What better way to learn about 1066 and the Battle of Hastings than by walking in the footsteps of William the Conqueror and King Harold? Stand on the spot where the battle took place and learn all about the events leading up to one of the most famous dates in history.

3 Dover Castle, Kent

Travel through 2,000 years of history at Dover Castle. Discover the Roman lighthouse, climb the great tower and explore medieval tunnels. Finish at the secret wartime tunnels and explore their role in WW2.

4 Osborne, Isle Of Wight

Discover the private lives of Queen Victoria and her family by exploring the beautiful house and grounds. Round off your trip with a visit to the exotic Durbar room, exploring the gifts and paintings given to Queen Victoria as Empress of India.

5 Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire

Kenilworth Castle has been a major military stronghold, a royal palace and an inspiration to writers and artists for 900 years. Help students to imagine the splendour of Elizabethan Kenilworth by walking in the Tudor queen's footsteps.



english-heritage.org.uk/learn/school-visits T: 0370 333 0606 E: bookeducation@english-heritage.org.uk

**ENGLISH HERITAGE
EDUCATION**

**MAKE AN IMPACT
WITH OUTDOOR
LEARNING**

Bring history to life and
inspire your pupils.

Step into England's story

Take your classroom outside and stand in the places where history happened. From the Stone Age to the Cold War, discover over 400 historic sites that cover a range of time periods, themes and key stages.

Book a **FREE** self-led visit or a hands-on expert-led Discovery Visit for just £100 per class per session.

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☎ 0370 333 1181

✉ bookeducation@english-heritage.org.uk

📍 english-heritage.org.uk/learn/school-visits

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WE'RE THE EXPERTS

“We take the hassle away”

Alice Raines from Thorpe Park explains how to get the perfect blend of learning and thrill-seeking...

What lessons can I create pre- and post-trip?

The science and maths behind rollercoasters is a great place to start. Designing, building and maintaining our rides could be a whole module in itself. Check out our website for an example of a 'science of rollercoasters' lesson. Alternatively, it's interesting to look at the HR structure of such a large business, or perhaps explore the hospitality and guest care side of things. Also, as Thorpe Park offers live shows and seasonal scare mazes, the park offers a variety of interesting performance aspects for more theatrical students.

What feedback have you received from teachers?

We've been so grateful to receive excellent feedback from both teachers and students. With something for everyone, we've welcomed back schools from up and down the country for yearly trips. We've been fortunate to work with some great teachers – their feedback has helped us sculpt our school trips to be as fun and educational as possible.

What workshops do you offer?

We offer workshops themed around science, maths, business and marketing, with more to come! Our eye-opening lessons in STEM and business will challenge young minds and align with national curriculum requirements. Our workshops last 25 minutes – enough time to add some educational value, but not long enough to disrupt your day. Each workshop includes a presentation on your chosen subject from one of our education officers, as well as a group activity within marketing and business workshops.



EXPERT PROFILE

Name: Alice Raines

Job title: Education officer

Area of expertise: Educational workshops

Best part of my job: When a student asks a question about something I haven't thought about

What support can you offer ahead of a visit?

We know that organising a school trip for an entire class or more can be quite a challenge so we do everything we can to take the hassle away and help you arrange a perfectly smooth school trip. Available for download on our website we have a permission slip, lead teacher checklist, risk assessment and a guide to ride safety. You also get two free teacher planning tickets to visit and complete any checks you require.

What support can you offer post-visit?

Our care for our guests doesn't end as soon as they leave the island! Any item lost on the day can be reported to guest services, or following your visit you can contact the team via the number below. There's been plenty of times where a student or teacher has thought of a great question to ask the education team while on the coach back home. Get in touch and we'll be happy to find out anything we can for you!

ASK ME ABOUT

GETTING THE BEST OUT OF YOUR DAY – We can advise on meal deals, Fastrack tickets and how to beat the queues.

LINKING YOUR LESSONS – Need some supporting information? Get in touch and we'll see what we can dig up for you.

STUDENTS WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS – Get in touch to see how we can accommodate students to ensure they have the most thrilling day possible.

thorpepark.com T: 01932 577131 E: tpschools@thorpe-park.co.uk

Bold AMBITIONS

Is a night away for every child too much to ask for? No, but we need collaboration and more government funding, says YHA's **Alison Stevens**

In 2019, Landscapes Review was published. This independent review, asked for by the government, looked into whether the protections for National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty were still fit for purpose. In the report, lead reviewer Julian Glover called for “a night in a national landscape for every child.” This is a bold ambition, but one which is achievable with support, collaboration and central government funding. Only when we do this will the outdoors be truly inclusive.

There are currently around ten million pupils attending school in the UK. A night in a national landscape would mean at least one residential experience for every one of those pupils at some point in their school career. I estimate this to be around one million residential experiences a year. Achievable? Absolutely.

Generation Green

In 16 months, the Generation Green project, funded by a £2.5 million Green Recovery Challenge Fund grant, reached more than 100,000 young people aged seven and above, giving them meaningful opportunities to connect with the outdoors. This project wasn't just the work of YHA, the organisation I work for. Far

from it, in fact. We know that we can only succeed if we work with others, which is why we formed Access Unlimited – a coalition of 15 not-for-profit outdoor education providers.

At YHA our mantra is “Because where you go changes who you become.” To make real meaningful change, we've learnt that it isn't just where you go, but who you take on the journey with you, and who you meet on the way. Together with Scouts, Girlguiding, The Field Studies Council, The Outward Bound Trust and the ten National Parks in England, we've made a real difference.

Combined expertise

It is through working together, using our combined expertise and learning from one another, that we've been able to ensure that we reach those young people who would benefit the most from this funding.

YHA's pot of Generation Green funding provided more than 1,800 fully-funded day stays and residential activity breaks alone. Demand for the breaks was unprecedented. A simple digital marketing campaign in May 2021 resulted in demand outstripping places by 400%. We were able to offer funded breaks to 62 schools – all of which were new to YHA and hadn't been on a trip with us before. However, we are acutely

aware of the very real need for more of these opportunities, particularly in light of Covid. Our partners reported similar levels of high demand.

This phase of the Generation Green project ended in March, but over this time we've seen the power of the collective reach of 15 partner organisations. We will continue to work together as a coalition to make a difference. We're rightly proud of our collective achievements, but this is tempered by frustration and concern. With the gap between rich and poor widening and more families falling into poverty, more children than ever are missing out because their parents can't afford a school trip.

Proven benefits

According to the World Health Organisation, 75% of all mental health problems are established by the time someone is 18, and one in ten school children have a diagnosable mental health condition. Giving young people the opportunity to see how the

outdoors can be explored all year round, and introducing positive, active behaviours and habits in young people can have life-long benefits to mental health.

At YHA we see first-hand the benefits of residential outdoor activity breaks from

“More children than ever are missing out because their parents can't afford a school trip”



the thousands of schools we work with each year. Wayne Norrie is CEO of Greenwood Academies Trust which operates more than 35 academies in some of the most deprived areas of the UK. He's a residential school trip advocate, saying: "When children participate in a residential visit, they benefit in so many ways. Visits increase a child's confidence, develop their independence, aid their social skills and give them an opportunity to experience an environment different to the one they are familiar with. These are all vital life skills, and it's so important all children are offered access to visits, not just those who have a family that can afford it."

Covid legacy

Covid has also shown us the value so many of us place on accessing nature and culture. The stark reality is that over two million young people faced lockdown without access to a garden or local green space. Half a million children have also missed out on a school residential during the pandemic. The inequalities of access to the outdoors and green spaces that existed pre-Covid have only been compounded by the pandemic.

Residential visits have played an important role supporting young people returning to the classroom following lockdown. The Outward Bound Trust's Generation Green fully-funded adventure days helped young people aged 11-17 adjust to life post-lockdown, giving them confidence and a new motivation to return to school, as well as opening their eyes to considering a career in the outdoors.

Research by the University of Cumbria in 2019 found that the profound and transformative impact that residential experiences

HOW TO SAVE ON A SCHOOL RESIDENTIAL

- **BOOK IN LOW SEASON.** A residential in winter means lower costs but no less outcome for children if you take a 'whatever the weather' approach.
- **SAVE WITH A SELF-LED RESIDENTIAL.** Plan and deliver your own activities rather than using an instructor. Free resources for outdoor activities which have been created as part of Generation Green are available to download at tinyurl.com/tst-yha and tinyurl.com/tst-nationalparks
- **GO LOCAL.** Use a local outdoor education centre or provider to save on travel costs.
- **USE YOUR PUPIL PREMIUM.** This can be used to subsidise or fully pay for the cost of a residential.
- **ACCESS BURSARIES AND FUNDING.** A number of residential providers, like Rock UK and YHA, offer bursaries and funded places for pupils in receipt of pupil premium

can have on pupils was significantly greater for 'vulnerable' pupils. Without further funding how can we ensure that all young people are being included in and given access to the outdoors?

Long-term we need central government funding. This would enable Glover's ambition to be achieved. In Defra's response to Glover's review, it said "Programmes such as Generation Green demonstrate that national-scale partnerships and coordinated collaboration can augment what our lead partners are already doing so well", so we're hopeful of further funding.

Looking to the future

If you're a school looking for immediate options for support and funding, they are out there, but they're limited. Because YHA is a charity, it can support schools which are on the DfE/WG deprived schools list and have high numbers of children in receipt of pupil premium by offering an education subsidy discount. Pupil premium can be used to subsidise or fully pay for the cost of a residential. A number of residential providers, including YHA, also offer bursary and funded places for pupils in receipt of pupil premium.

There needs, however, to be continued funding from central government for projects like Generation Green which are underpinned by national and local collaboration. We know they work. If we fail to create sustainable connections to the outdoors for young people then, without continued funding, we risk losing some of the nation's most vital assets – like youth hostels and many more social tourism organisations that enable schools to access the outdoors. Consider for a moment the impact this would have on a young person who has never seen the sea, a sheep in a field or the landscape of a National Park.

It's a long road ahead of us. Until we get there, we can only do our best to make residential visits as affordable and accessible to all schools as possible.



Alison Stevens is head of education and youth at YHA (England & Wales) and Generation Green Programme Director.

@yhaofficial

yha.org.uk/generationgreen

5 OF THE BEST

DAY TRIPS

There's lots that your group can learn in a few hours beyond the classroom – if you know where to go...

1 English Heritage

Grand medieval castles; a Roman villa; the battlefield where the armies of King Harold and William the Conqueror clashed; a cold war bunker – standing in the places where history happened brings a topic to life and reinforces your teaching in the classroom.

Inspire your students with a free self-led visit to one of over 400 English Heritage sites, or let experts take the lead in an interactive discovery visit workshop.

Support your visit with free teaching resources that have been developed by a team of qualified teachers, educational experts and historians. Visit english-heritage.org.uk



2 Kent Wildlife Trust

Kent Wildlife Trust is the leading wildlife charity in Kent. Its aim is to bring people closer to nature and ensure wildlife is protected and restored in the future.

Activities enable young people to connect with nature and learn outside the classroom. Learners will explore different habitats, practise new skills and have fun while meeting curriculum objectives. Expert tutors are on hand to deliver a wide range of interactive sessions at sites across Kent, from pond dipping to forest school programmes. Staff are committed to ensuring high quality provision and have been awarded the Learning Outside the Classroom quality badge. For more information, email education@kentwildlife.org.uk or visit kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/explore/education





3 West Midland Safari Park

If you'd like to experience a variety of unique and immersive education sessions that your students will find memorable and informative, then West Midland Safari Park may be the perfect destination for your school trip.

The Park's education team has been delivering curriculum-linked activity sessions for all age groups for over ten years. The team aims to complement learning and bring topics to life, with fun and interactive sessions that can even include involvement from some of the smaller, friendlier animals.

Education sessions are delivered in the Safari Academy; a fully sustainable education centre with five spacious classrooms. Booking is easy – contact a member of the team on education@wmssp.co.uk or call **01299 404888**.

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 the 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 your ticket price.

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



SAFEGUARDING THE PAST

Over £6 million has been invested in restoration at Warwick Castle during the last ten years.



5 Thorpe Park

Thorpe Park Resort Theme Park welcomes schools from all over the country for a school trip like no other. At Thorpe Park you'll find a full day's worth of thrilling rides and attractions for students and teachers.

To make booking a trip as easy as possible there's a variety of resources on the resort's website for download, including checklists, risk assessments, permission slips and lesson plans. The park also has a dedicated school team to help you every step of the way. For more information email tpschoools@thorpe-park.co.uk or visit thorpepark.co.uk/schools

Fun & GAMES

Of course trips should be educational, but if lunch was the highlight of your pupils' day, something's gone seriously wrong...

ANDY CHAPMAN

Let's be honest, organising a school trip is hard work. We all know the benefits of off-site visits but let's not kid ourselves: it takes a huge amount of time and commitment to take kids off-site. With busy teachers having to juggle a thousand other tasks, nobody would blame you for overlooking a new venue in favour of a 'step and repeat' trip from last year. But even then, risk assessments need updating, coach companies change, you have a completely different cohort of children and legendary TA Mrs Briggs has retired. Trips are tough on overworked teachers!

I taught for a number of years (predominantly in Y6) and in that time I organised everything from local walks and museum visits to residentials and surfing holidays. Only when I stepped away from the profession could I reflect on just how much there was to organise. There's simply a huge amount to consider – booking a venue, sorting a coach, parental permission letters, collecting money, organising adults, grouping children, site visits, medical forms, inhalers, travel sickness, packed lunches, EVOLVE forms, worksheets, clipboards, sharpening pencils...

Some schools are blessed with admin teams or educational visits co-ordinators who can do this, but for many it all falls on the shoulders of a class teacher. That is a huge responsibility and one I wouldn't blame you for shying away from. And let's not forget,

in among all of those tasks there is the little matter of day-to-day teaching, marking, planning, clubs, meetings and keeping up with whatever is the current 'flavour of the month' in education (remember VAK?). Teaching is tough and for many overworked and underpaid teachers, off-site visits are a chore.

Eye-opening answers

When you start putting school trips into your school calendar you might already have a venue in mind; perhaps one that ties in perfectly with your new topic, complements a specific area of learning, is local or is simply a school tradition. Whatever the reason, it's written into your curriculum map and the goal is to run it.

However, there should be another reason for choosing your venue. This may be controversial, but I think it's vital to consider whether children and staff will *enjoy* the trip. And I don't mean more enjoyable than the guided reading session they're missing – I mean *really* enjoy it.

I made a habit of conducting a trip evaluation with children. For one particular trip, their

answers to "What was your favourite part of the trip?" were eye-opening. Answers included "my packed lunch", "the coach", "the ice cream" and the side-splittingly hilarious "when you stood in a puddle".

Now, you may think that the learning element is more important, and I would agree, but surely learning and fun go hand in hand, especially when school trips are concerned? When the best thing about a trip for a class of Y6 pupils was their packed lunch it speaks volumes about the impact of the trip. What will your students remember about the visit a week or a month after your trip? If the trip was a learning hook you'll want to draw on that visit continually across the six weeks of your topic, so make the visit memorable and enjoyable.

Trips are about new experiences; seeing and feeling things first-hand. They're about emotions and learning that can't be replicated in the classroom or on an iPad. If children spend all of the trip with their noses behind a clipboard and worrying about filling in a worksheet, is that the best experience for them? That's a chore and that isn't what trips are about.

Ditch worksheets

I speak to hundreds of teachers every year about their trip and its objectives. The key words I want them to say are, "We want our children to experience...". There is nothing more deflating than when a teacher asks, "Is there a worksheet they can complete?". A worksheet can be completed at school, but at our setting – a theme park – what can't be replicated back in the classroom is that pure moment of joy when children experience the full force of gravity on their bodies; when they challenge themselves to overcome a fear; when their heart races with elation and enjoyment. These are the moments which need to be experienced and these are the moments which can be drawn on throughout a topic.

It doesn't have to be somewhere large-scale. You can get those same moments from a local visit: a museum, a zoo. When accompanying a Y4 class to the zoo they were asked to find answers about animals and write them down on a clipboard. They did this by reading the boards at each enclosure to find the answers. Ultimately, that is just a guided reading lesson, but in a zoo. Instead, look at the animals; take photos; listen to keeper talks; visit a touch table to actually handle an artefact; book an engaging workshop. Look for those engaging opportunities which are not just an extension of a classroom session.

"If children spend all of the trip with their noses behind a clipboard, is that the best experience for them?"

PLAN LIKE A PRO

- Share the trip workload. Get other adults involved in the planning and delivery.
- Get ideas from other teachers and other schools. Who is going where?
- Know your cohort. What makes them tick? What would they enjoy?
- Really think about how the trip will assist classroom learning. What do you want the class to gain from the visit?
- Get stuck in! Kids love seeing their teachers enjoying themselves and taking part in activities.

Running jokes

Don't just think of a trip being enjoyable for children, either. Adults too should have fun! It's an opportunity to see your class in a different light; to actually enjoy spending time with them, rather than

worrying about whether they've met their target.

I had the pleasure of running a residential trip at an activity centre and sitting next to one of our quieter boys on a giant swing – a horrendous contraption that involved being pulled backwards into the air and then released. I can't write the expletive which came out of his mouth at point of release and I simply couldn't tell him off – it became a running joke between us for the rest of the school year. Then there are the genuine conversations which stem from being off-site; from seeing things for the first time. The best trips are enjoyed by everyone.

Expecting teachers to enjoy themselves on a trip is possibly a strange opinion, especially when you need to ensure that every child remains safe and with their group leaders, but as long as you have a really good understanding of the venue and a good 'plan B', it doesn't have to be such a stressful situation.

Choose venues for their ability to inspire and engage. Choose trips which open the eyes of little ones. Choose experiences which children will remember for their whole life.



Andy Chapman is education and sales manager at Paultons Park in Hampshire

 paultonspark.co.uk



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6 THINGS TO DO AT...

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BEFORE YOU VISIT

Download useful resources to aid your planning via the Paultons Park website

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2 Book a workshop

Enjoy a curriculum-based workshop in the UK's most unique classroom. Our learning lab is fully themed, with bubbling test tubes and smoking pipes – it's sure to engage every student. Workshop highlights include 'Rollercoaster Forces' where children learn all about the forces on rides and take part in experiments using our K'Nex coasters. In 'Ride Programming', children take on the role of engineers to program our mini sky swinger rides.



3 Meet the dinosaurs

Step into a Jurassic world where dinosaurs of all shapes and sizes greet you at every turn. Lost Kingdom is home to three rollercoasters, including the mighty Flight of the Pterosaur, where riders get a birds-eye view of the land as they swoop over the kingdom. Take a jeep tour of our dinosaurs and come face-to-face with a T-rex in our 'meet and eat' show.

4 Venture into Little Africa

Step into Little Africa and discover a host of birds and animals, set within our own African village. Step into our stunning walk-through aviary and get closer than ever to a range of unique birds. Head into the nocturnal house to see fennec foxes, giant pouch rats and tiny pygmy mice up close. Outside, children can see our cheeky meerkats, stunning porcupines and many other African animals.



5 Picnic in beautiful surroundings

We know that lunch is a key part of any visit! The park boasts several undercover seating areas for hungry students. On colder days heat lamps are available. Our main seating area can house 450 and is conveniently located next to toilets and a free water bottle refill station. If the weather is nice, there's nothing better than eating under our cedar trees within our beautiful gardens.

6 Enjoy the variety

Whether you're finding out about penguins at our daily keeper talk or dropping 25m on our thrilling Magma ride, there's so much variety for school groups. Paultons Park has a range of options, whether for a learning trip, reward trip or mixture of the two. Teachers will appreciate our complementary adult ratios, free pre-visits, zero deposit and our 'no visit, no charge' guarantee.

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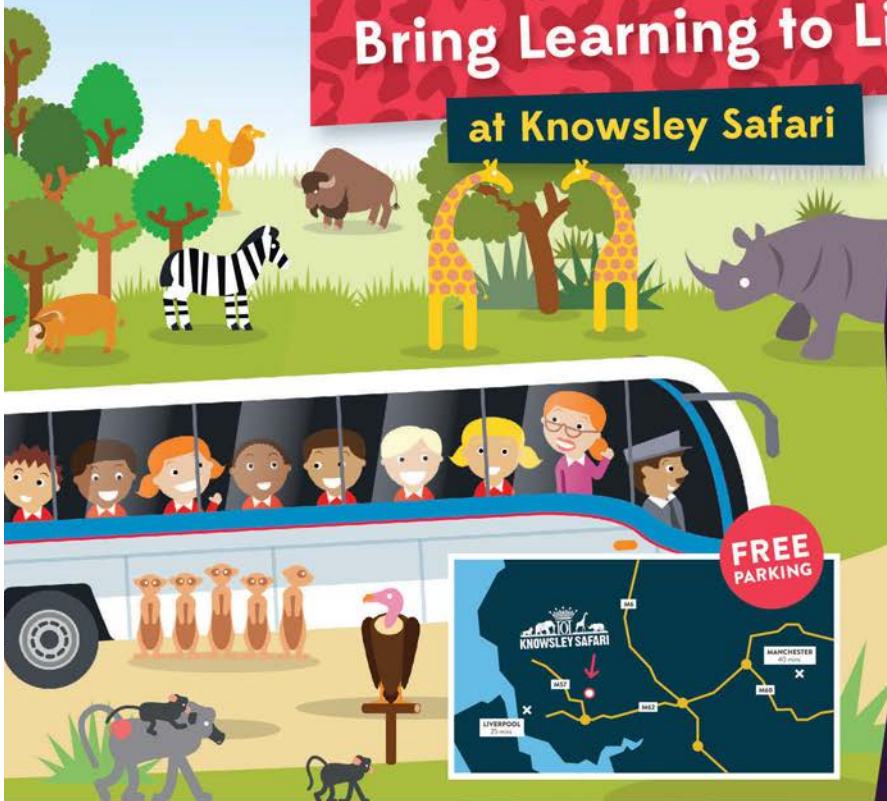


To find your closest education centre and for more information,
email: education@kentwildlife.org.uk
call: 01622 662012 or
visit www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/education

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Bring Learning to Life

at Knowsley Safari



As a 'Learning Outside The Classroom' badge holder, Knowsley Safari is an amazing place for children to discover more about the natural world and it's a fantastic opportunity to bring the curriculum to life!

Make your visit extra special with a Safari Tour Guide on your coach, they'll share amazing facts, information and stories about our animals whilst linking the information to your topic. Don't miss the chance to attend our sea lion and birds of prey displays whilst you're here and we also have a range of Discovery Sessions on offer for all age groups too which include:

- Hidden Habitats
- Animal Detectives
- Adventures in Africa
- Conservation Champions
- Exploring the Rainforest



Call 0151 430 9009 to book your session
or visit www.knowsleysafari.co.uk



Discover Virtual School Visits

From historical figures to famous authors, virtual visits are simply brilliant!

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Virtual school visits are an affordable alternative to trips out and expensive full-day workshops. Plus, with no coach hire to consider, virtual visits keep the bursar happy! Multiple classes joining? Discounted rates apply.

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With over 90 virtual visits on offer, there's something for every class. Historical characters and science shows act as brilliant hooks to topic lessons. Or if you're looking to inspire, check out the famous authors and Olympic athletes.

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After completing the online booking form, teachers provide a meeting link and the call is arranged. At the time of the virtual visit, simply start the call, sit back and enjoy. In the words of one Headteacher, "Wow, that was easy!"

Highly rated

Since launching during the pandemic, our virtual school visits have become a staple for many teachers, with continuing interest despite the lifting of restrictions. With an average rating of 4.9 stars, the teacher feedback speaks for itself.

virtualschoolvisits.com E: emily@virtualschoolvisits.com

PARTNER CONTENT



{ BEFORE YOUR VIRTUAL VISIT }

PRE TEACH

A brief introduction to the topic or speaker can maximise pupil engagement.

PREP FOR THE Q&A

Ask pupils to think about the questions they would like to ask the speaker.

CHECK YOUR TECH

Check your microphone and camera are working before joining the call.

Bringing
learning
to life!



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LEARNING JOURNEYS

Dairy Cow Discovery

Pierrepont Farm is a bustling dairy farm that blends modern technology with traditional animal husbandry. Dairy Cow Discovery offers pupils an insight into the lives of award-winning Jersey cows and why they are so special. Children will learn about food origins, food production and visit the robotic milking parlour. They will also have the chance to get up close and personal with the cows themselves.

Pond Explorer

The Pierrepont pond is teeming with wildlife, both beneath the surface and within the surrounding hedgerows. The pond dipping platforms allow pupils to pond dip safely, observe species and learn about the lifecycles of the different creatures that they find. Older pupils will learn how to identify and classify animals, and discover the importance of pollinators and where they fit into a plant's lifecycle.

Woodland Adventure

Our stunning woods provide a haven for minibeasts, mammals and a selection of native birds. Children will have the opportunity to explore beneath the leaf litter to hunt for minibeasts and learn about insect anatomy and lifecycles. Our rustic bird hide provides cover for children to learn about woodland birds. The woodland classroom, complete with hand-painted animal seats, offers an immersive all-weather learning environment.

WE LOVE TO LEARN



Try our farm experience

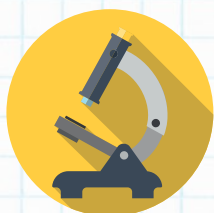
Visit Pierrepont Farm in Surrey for a unique outdoor learning opportunity tailored to your class

Mosaic is an exciting new education programme that delivers a unique farming and wildlife experience to primary school pupils in the heart of the Surrey countryside. Mosaic blends the adventure of the great outdoors with key learning outcomes, all aligned to the EYFS and primary national curriculum. Based at the Countryside Restoration Trust's Pierrepont Farm, pupils will interact with

a variety of habitats and wildlife, including pond life, woodland minibeasts and the award-winning Jersey herd.

Available to groups of up to 30 pupils, Mosaic offers three themed days out that can be adapted to meet the needs of your class. We also offer trips for Beavers and Cubs, home-schooled pupils, holiday clubs and Mini Mosaic for children aged two to four.

CURRICULUM LINKS



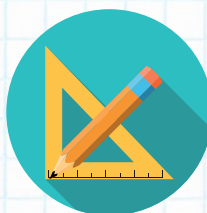
SCIENCE

Our themed visits provide strong links to programmes of study such as plants, animals including humans and living things in their habitats.



GEOGRAPHY

The physical and human features of Pierrepont Farm are explored during visits, and children will also learn about food production and sustainability.



D&T

The cooking and nutrition DT topic aligns to our Dairy Discovery Programme, where children learn about food origins, seasonality and healthy eating.

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More than a DAY OUT

You never know when a theatre trip might change a pupil's life – all children have the right to that experience...

LUCY CUTHBERTSON

It shouldn't really come as a surprise, but surveys tell us that more than half of students feel their mental health and wellbeing worsened during the Covid pandemic. There were, of course, some students who had quite a pleasant time at home during lockdown – some who may have even preferred it to being in school – but the negative impact was disproportionately felt by those children and students already disadvantaged. Existing inequalities have widened.

Unfair disparity

Many children and young people living in challenging situations rely heavily on school for new experiences and opportunities, but sadly not all schools feel able to take advantage of the cultural sector reopening. We have a situation where, post-lockdown, theatres are back open but many schools are choosing not to come.

We know that even prior to the pandemic, state schools were taking fewer trips to the theatre, with budgets, staffing and curriculum pressure being the most cited reasons. There is a real-life lottery for young people in the state sector as to whether they happen to attend a school that provides these experiences or one that rarely does. This disparity is simply unfair.

Like adults, children and young people have also been impacted from the lack of connection, interaction and the immediacy of experiencing life-affirming live events that previously formed a normal part of their lives. However, unlike adults, for children, this last two years of the pandemic has affected a disproportionately large chunk of their lives. It's sobering to remember that older students have now experienced huge disruption, affecting three of their

academic years at school.

We may feel that, post-vaccination, we are coming out of the worst of it, but theatres up and down the country, who normally see a huge flood of school bookings for pantomimes, reported that schools were still reluctant to come out. That tradition – sometimes the only theatre visit children get – disappeared for another year.

Private vs state

We know that the independent education sector places a high value on the arts and sports. Facilities and opportunities are generally excellent. It's not even just about money – it's part of the parental expectation that these activities are a vital element to a holistic education, so they are appropriately budgeted for.

When the Globe reopened in May, the first schools back through the doors were predominantly independent ones. I was very glad to see them as they represented post-pandemic hope, but I wanted to see more of a balance and range of schools.

are shrinking as courses are cut and schools aren't able to provide these experiences to the very children who need them most. It's difficult to imagine yourself in the future doing a particular job if you haven't been exposed to it.

Here at the Globe we're doing our bit to narrow the gap in access to theatre trips by offering thousands of free tickets to state schools. All students in the audience will have a memorable experience (especially if they're standing in the yard and it rains), but for a small number it may be life-changing. As adults, we can't predict who will fall into which category; we can only facilitate experience.

We know it works – artists have returned to the Globe to work on shows in a professional capacity after first visiting during their time at school. School trips to the arts and live theatre are more than a nice day out – they need to be understood and prioritised as a child's educational right.



Lucy Cuthbertson is co-director of education at Shakespeare's Globe. The Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank project offers free tickets to Y6-Y13 students in non-selective London and Birmingham schools.

@the_globe

[shakespearesglobe.com/learn](https://www.shakespearesglobe.com/learn)

Narrowing the gap

The theatre industry has recently woken up to the lack of diversity in new actors coming through the drama school system and the significant bias to those from more privileged backgrounds. However, it can come as no surprise if the pipeline lower down isn't working; if opportunities to study these subjects





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Workshop 2 – LEGO Time Traveller

Explore Ancient civilisations from our Stone Age ancestors to Roman Britain and discover how their characteristics helped shape modern Britain. Ideal for Key Stage 1 and 2, students are challenged to build and display an invention from an ancient civilisation on the LEGO timeline.

Workshop 3 – Science of Rollercoasters

This workshop brings science to life, exploring how gravity, friction, air resistance, weight and momentum all work together on a rollercoaster. Aimed at Key Stage 2 and 3, pupils will be tasked with designing and building their own LEGO rollercoaster, ensuring all forces are in balance to allow the ride to function correctly.

WE LOVE TO LEARN

Learning with a LEGO® twist

Take a look at the exciting and inspiring options for school visitors this year

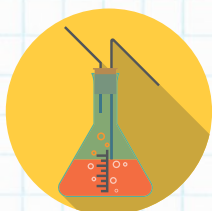
A school trip to LEGOLAND® Windsor Resort is sure to engage, excite and inspire your students, creating countless 'wow' moments throughout your visit. Whether you choose to self-lead or take part in one of the unique workshops, the attraction offers a truly unique learning experience.

Set in 150 acres of beautiful parkland with more than 55 interactive rides, live shows and attractions, the resort brings

learning to life outside the classroom. The thrilling theme park rides and attractions, combined with interactive educational workshops, makes LEGOLAND Windsor Resort a strong contender for school teachers looking for somewhere unique and engaging for their pupils.

There's a focus on allowing pupils to explore through creative and imaginative play, while learning at the same time.

CURRICULUM LINKS



SCIENCE

Dive into the amazing underwater world of LEGO City Deep Sea Adventure. Students will learn about the characteristics of underwater creatures and their habitats.



GEOGRAPHY

Explore, locate and identify Earth's continents and oceans then use teamwork and building skills to create famous landmarks, animals and buildings for the LEGO map.



ENGLISH

Kickstart creativity with a Story Maker session. Pupils will work together to create and build stories which can then be added to story boards back in the classroom.



5 TO CONSIDER

INSPIRING IDEAS

Take pupils somewhere new and fascinating this year, with these brilliant school trip ideas

1 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 and support learning in the classroom. As well as curriculum-linked sessions and workbooks, Monkey World in Wareham, Dorset, 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 about its offering for schools.

VIRTUAL VISIT
Can't visit the park in person? Monkey World's education team can take you on a guided tour from your classroom!



2 Historic Royal Palaces

With 1,000 years of history to uncover, a visit to some of the country's most iconic historic palaces offers pupils the unique opportunity to immerse themselves in history where it happened. Children can take part in interactive sessions led by expert, costumed presenters, including: Tudor kitchens revealed at Hampton Court Palace; crime and punishment at the Tower of London; Queen Victoria's toys at Kensington Palace; and the roles of servants uncovered at Hillsborough Castle.

And for those wanting a self-led visit, activity trails linked to the national curriculum allow teachers to shape a visit to suit their students' needs. For more information and to book, visit hrp.org.uk/schools

3 Conway Centres

With four locations across north Wales and Cheshire, Conway Centres are the perfect location for schools to come together and make life-long memories. Conway Centres combines real-life outdoor adventure with unique creative and performing arts activities, which increase achievement and inspire individuals.

Whether children and young people are canoeing on the private dock in Anglesey (with the stunning Snowdonia mountain range as a backdrop), taking centre stage in the outdoor woodland theatre or exploring all that Delamere forest has to offer, there's something to inspire everyone at Conway Centres. Visit conwaycentres.co.uk

READY-MADE PROGRAMMES
From adventure to arts, Conway Centres' ready-made itineraries take the hassle out of trip planning.



4 Knowsley Safari

Every year, Knowsley Safari's learning and discovery team welcomes thousands of young people to explore the natural world. Wild workshops and guided tours help to bring the curriculum to life for both teachers and pupils alike at this Merseyside venue.

The team believes that the best way for children to learn about animals and nature is to experience it first-hand. Learning is supercharged with unforgettable adventures that pupils will remember for years, whether it's a safari coach tour with an expert educator or a discovery workshop. Children will return home absolutely buzzing. Call **0151 430 9009** (option 2) or visit knowsleysafari.co.uk

5 Lee Valley

Get your class outdoors with a trip to a 10,000 acre classroom in Lee Valley Regional Park, spanning London, Essex and Hertfordshire. The learning service provides real-world experience of topics on the KS1 and KS2 curriculum – immerse pupils in the history of the Stone Age, help them discover the natural world, or teach mindfulness practices in the outdoors. Looking for something more? The forest school programme is available in six-week blocks for children to develop physical and social skills, and in-school programmes are also available. Find a day out with a difference at visitleevalley.org.uk/learning



Sparkling a PASSION

A science school trip inspired this pupil to undertake a medicine degree, and it could do the same for your students...

HOLLY CASEY

Sally, a medical student at Queen Mary University of London, knows the value of a STEM trip for inspiring children and raising their aspirations. She visited Centre of the Cell, an informal science learning centre at Queen Mary, as part of a home-school group when she was a teenager.

Her parents weren't knowledgeable about science and growing up she didn't have much exposure to STEM, but she loved our STEM Pod so much that she began to teach herself science. Her passion for science – uncovered following this one school trip – eventually led her to a medicine degree at the place where she had first been inspired all those years before.

Improving science capital

As a teacher you'll understand the value school trips can offer. They enhance learning in the classroom and allow concepts to be better embedded in students' minds. Science capital – the sum of an individual's science-related knowledge, attitudes and experiences –

is now widely recognised as a key determiner of success in STEM. As such, methods to increase and improve science capital are being implemented across the informal science learning sector to develop more effective and inclusive activities and resources for students and teachers alike.

A key element of the concept of science capital is the importance of children seeing science as 'for them'. Students who have a family member or friend working in STEM, or those who see themselves reflected in well-known professionals, are more likely to pursue a career in a STEM-related subject. With an absence of these networks, students may not perform as well in these subjects, and can carry negative opinions of STEM that can then impact on future generations.

By showing students early on that these subjects are not only 'for them' but are present in the world around them, we can start to break this cycle and create positive attitudes towards STEM.

This eventually leads to an increased interest in STEM subjects and careers, and builds trust and respect for science across society.

“She loved our STEM Pod so much that she began to teach herself science”

Beyond the curriculum

One way to increase a student's science capital is by supplementing classroom learning with a science-themed school trip. This can help build pupils' feeling that STEM is 'for them' by seeing scientists at work and exploring different career options and the routes into STEM that might be available to them. Learning about science subjects in an alternative and engaging way can also provide an opportunity for students who may not flourish in classroom and examination environments to still have a positive interaction with science. It may even spark a hidden love for science that the 'Sally' of your class hadn't realised before.

But inspiring children in STEM goes beyond just showing them that they can do it. They need to be interested in the concepts, and excited by the prospect of learning and building their understanding. Classroom teaching is limited in what it can offer here. You're restricted by a curriculum and the need to prepare students for important exams, and work with limited time and resources.

However, informal science centres are able to go beyond the curriculum and explore cutting-edge science and interesting facts that might never come up in an exam but could stay in a student's mind forever. They are often the best places to learn about the

weird and wonderful ways that science interacts with our everyday lives, both in and out of the classroom.

Immense impact

As an industry, science centres can focus much more on the inspiration side of science learning, spend more time connecting learning to everyday examples, coming up with simple (and often silly) ways of getting across complex concepts, as well as just making STEM seem fun rather than difficult or intimidating to students that may already have a negative view of those subjects.

By allowing pupils to increase their science capital through new connections, new role models, happy memories and positive experiences, science-related school trips can have an immense impact on both their attainment in and attitude towards STEM subjects. So much so, in fact, that there are likely many more people like Sally out there, whose lives have been shaped by a scientific curiosity sparked into life by an exciting school trip that has stuck with them ever since.



Holly Casey is centre manager at Centre of the Cell, based at Queen Mary

University of London. It's the first science education centre in the world to be located within working biomedical research laboratories.

@centrefofthecell

centrefofthecell.org



Historic Royal Palaces

Help pupils get hands-on with history in these incredible historical venues

Led by expert, costumed presenters, our interactive sessions offer a unique opportunity for your pupils to journey into the past, develop historical enquiry skills and explore how people and places have changed over time.

1 The Tower of London

Discover the terrible events of the Great Fire of London and the story of Samuel Pepys; step into a prisoner's shoes and learn about crime and punishment; meet Katherine Parr as the new queen learns about royal marriage in the Tudor period.

2 Hampton Court Palace

Find out about life at the Tudor court and make comparisons to the present day; learn more about hierarchy and status within the Tudor court and the Tudor kitchens; investigate the real Henry VIII.

3 Hillsborough Castle and Gardens

Discover how rich and poor in Victorian Ireland would have celebrated important events; uncover the different roles of servants in a Victorian 'big house'; explore the State Rooms and investigate the idea of power and how best to overcome problems with others.

4 Kensington Palace

Discover Queen Victoria's childhood home and enjoy a hands-on investigation of similarities and differences between toys from the past and today, and consider how well prepared Victoria was to become Queen by examining objects and documents from her childhood.



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We've been creating tours which inspire students 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 UK and overseas destinations have been chosen with primary school groups in mind. Our safe, secure accommodation options adhere to enhanced safety audits to give teachers and parents complete peace of mind, and our range of engaging educational visits provide an ideal introduction to the world outside of your classroom. From the moment you enquire you'll have your own dedicated contact who has extensive school travel & destination 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 understanding 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.

Reassurance – when booking with NST you'll have the security of an established business that is financially protected with both ABTA and ATOL licences, protecting parents' money.

Online trip organiser & travel app – all our paperwork in one place 24/7; features include a personalised tour checklist and instant access to your travel documents while on your trip including contact numbers and a map of the area with your hotel and visits pinpointed for you.



EXPERT PROFILE

Name: Michael Knowles

Job title: Senior educational travel advisor

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

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

24/7 support – we understand that this support is more important than ever – benefit from the reassuring 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 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've 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 have been awarded the Feefo Platinum 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 to suit the learning requirements of your group, as well as including visits to build confidence and resilience.

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 – Unique and exclusive educational materials for you to use on your trip, plus resources for pre- and post-trip tasks too.

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

Coming up

Don't miss out – here's what's planned over the next few months...

1 APRIL

Marwell Zoo – Brickosaurs Evolution

Marvel at 55 dinosaur sculptures, all made from toy bricks! This interactive exhibition, celebrating Marwell Zoo in Winchester's 50th anniversary, showcases over 20 species, including a seven-meter-long spinosaurus, a nodding heterodontosaurus and a huge mosasaur emerging from the water. Dino enthusiasts will be able to test their knowledge along the trail with a host of fascinating facts and build stats at every turn. In the fossil zone pupils can literally walk in their favourite dinosaurs' footsteps. (From 1st April). marwell.org.uk

National Maritime Museum Cornwall – Monsters of the Deep



Take a deep breath, plunge down to the dark murky depths of the ocean and discover the monsters that lurk beneath. At this special exhibition, pupils will explore centuries-old tall tales about deep sea creatures and will learn how, even today, these stories continue to capture imaginations. Become a 19th century pioneer scientist aboard HMS Challenger, handle real objects, try out microscopes and understand what it felt like to be an explorer aboard a floating laboratory. (Until January 2023). nmmc.co.uk

Novium Museum – Brick Wonders

Brick Wonders, hosted at the Novium Museum in Chichester, features wonders of the world recreated from 500,000 Lego bricks. The exhibition covers natural and man-made marvels from all seven continents, such as Egyptian pyramids, the Grand Canyon, Old London Bridge and the International Space Station. Children will be wowed by the Great Barrier Reef section, complete with underwater lighting and sound effects. There's also animated film footage and an interactive brick building area to enjoy. (Until 5th June). thenovium.org



17 MAY

British Museum – World of Stonehenge

Stonehenge, the awe-inspiring ancient stone circle in Wiltshire, has always been shrouded in mystery and folklore. In the British Museum's World of Stonehenge exhibition, pupils can learn the human story behind the stones through a variety of fascinating objects. Perfect for KS2 pupils, visit for free during exclusive school sessions on 17th May and 22nd and 27th June. Visit britishmuseum.org

27th

World Museum – Doctor Who

From epic monsters to costumes and props, bring science to life by exploring some of the Doctor's many adventures through space and time. Visit the Doctor Who: Worlds of Wonder exhibit at Liverpool's World Museum to see original artefacts, sets and much more. Pupils can discover how science weaves its way through the world's longest-running sci-fi show. (From 27th May). liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

Science & Media Museum – Top Secret

Explore the fascinating world of codebreaking, ciphers and secret communications at the Science & Media Museum in Bradford. Discover the story of Alan Turing and his team of codebreakers at Bletchley Park, challenge friends in the interactive puzzle zone and trace the evolution of the gadgets and devices used to conceal and decode crucial messages. (Until 5th June). scienceandmediamuseum.org.uk



7 JULY

RHS Garden Harlow Carr – Sculpture Trail

Near Harrogate? The Four Seasons is an extraordinary collection of four and half metre tall fibreglass heads made up of fruit, vegetables, flowers and crops – inspired by the seasons and the paintings of Renaissance artist Giuseppe Arcimboldo. Activity sheets for children are available. (From 7th July). rhs.org.uk

Science and Industry Museum – Musical Mind



Explore the science of music's mysterious hold over us and how it drives us to create, perform, feel and share at the Science and Industry Museum in Manchester. Pupils will be able to get hands-on, interacting with extraordinary musical instruments and performances to explore the science of music. This riotous, interactive experience will encourage children to feel, remember and reflect on what music means to them. (From October). scienceandindustrymuseum.org.uk

Try forest bathing

Help your class destress and reconnect with nature by building this Japanese ritual into your routine

JENN BROOKBANKS

How do you fancy helping your class de-stress and boost their emotional wellbeing in a natural way? Forest bathing could be the perfect whole-class activity for you. Known in Japan as *shinrin yoku*, it's all about being calm and quiet among trees and observing nature around you, all while breathing deeply. While forests provide the perfect environment to reconnect with nature, forest bathing is also suitable for outdoor spaces like gardens, parks and even your school playground.

Rather than trying forest bathing as a one-off experience, I recommend practising regularly for short periods, building it into your class's weekly or fortnightly routine. Short exercises are perfect for teaching concentration and mindfulness and also provide an excellent opportunity for children to learn from each other.

Getting started

You're aiming to provide a relaxing and sensory experience; encouraging children to use mindfulness and understand how it can be beneficial for their health and wellbeing. One of the most important things to note is that forest bathing is a digital-free experience. You don't need any technology or additional items – just you (as leader of the session) and your class.

“Forest bathing is a digital-free experience”

Find a quiet spot that makes your class feel safe. You might like to try different outdoor areas over the course of a term to decide on the place that feels best as a group. When you're ready, ask children to slow down and move through the outdoor space slowly so they can see and feel more, while taking long breaths deep into the abdomen.

Extending the exhalation of air to twice the length of the inhalation sends a message to the body that it can relax. In other words, ask children to make their 'out' breath a little bit longer than their 'in' breath, if they can.

Sensory experience

Next, ask your class to stop and sit, if possible. Encourage children to take in their

surroundings using all five senses. How does the outdoor environment make them feel? Be observant, looking at nature's small details. Ask pupils to close their eyes. How many sounds can they hear? Where are the sounds coming from? Can they sniff like a rabbit? What do they smell? Ask your class to share their observations with a partner.

Then, talk to your class about going on a magical forest adventure. You will support them to let their mind wander through the forest of their imagination. Ask the children to keep their eyes closed and share what colours they can see. What animals live in the imaginary forest? What sounds echo through the trees? When everyone is ready, take three slow breaths and open your eyes.

Mindful observation

After the sensory activity, lead your class in sitting quietly and partaking in mindful observation. Ask the children to really focus on what they can see, hear, touch, smell and taste right in that moment, rather than about what else they are going to do that day.

It's OK if their mind wanders off, just gently bring focus back to their surroundings. For this activity, it helps if everyone keeps their eyes open. The colours of nature are soothing and studies have shown that people relax best while seeing greens and blues.

Ask the group to think about five things they can see, four things they can hear, three things they can touch, two things they can smell and one thing they can taste. Then ask them to think about one emotion or feeling they're aware of.

Stay as long as you can, starting with a comfortable time limit and building up to longer periods of mindfulness. As part of your outdoor session, you could also consider extra sensory activities (be sure to watch out for brambles and stinging nettles). Creating sound maps, making perfume from woodland materials or finding a tree to hug can all increase children's sensory awareness.



Jenn Brookbanks is education and arts marketing officer at Forestry

England. The organisation welcome trips to forests from schools. Visits can either be self-led or supported by Forestry England partners. Visit the website to find your closest forest and book an immersive forest experience.

@forestryengland

forestryengland.uk/learning/forest-visits

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LEARN THROUGH ADVENTURE

Adventure

'Adventure' is the perfect choice if you are looking for a well-rounded, pre-built activity programme that focuses on our three learning outcomes: confidence, resilience and life skills. Our 'Adventure' programme features a mix of daily activities from abseiling to archery, interactive evening entertainment and dedicated time with one of our brilliant course directors. There's also an 'Adventure Plus' option, allowing you to tailor your programme to suit your school's specific needs.

Environmental field studies

Explore our stunning locations with highly trained, specialist tutors who will provide your students with the key skills they need for unique research projects. Primary students will explore and learn about different natural landscapes and environments. In each of our modules, students will apply critical thinking skills in discussions around conservation and sustainability. Field study residentials also include added adventurous activities, including zip wires and archery for lifelong school trip memories!

Transition

'Transition' programmes are a perfect way to support what can be a difficult change period, whether it be to a new year group, a new school or back to classroom learning. With the core of the programme revolving around fresh starts, friendships and new beginnings, the inspiring, challenging and confidence-building activities encourage lively interaction and focus on team building. 'Transition' programmes also work as great end-of-year celebrations, to help pupils prepare for the next stage of education.

WE LOVE TO LEARN

Use a trip to transform pupils

Learning through adventure at Kingswood offers an experience like no other

A Kingswood adventure brings out the potential in every child. With award-winning programmes focused on building confidence, boosting resilience and developing key life skills, your class will enjoy a breath of fresh air, a taste of independence and make memories to last a lifetime.

Choose from 11 adventure centres across the UK, where our brilliant team will

deliver activities from abseiling to zip wires, while providing learning outcomes and so much more.

Introduced in 2022, our new unique Confidence Tracker also helps you to measure and demonstrate the outcome of your trip. Plus, you'll be able to explore pre- and post-trip activities from our partners, Enrich Education, to help extend the value of your trip long beyond your time with us.

CURRICULUM LINKS



CONFIDENCE

Our 'challenge by choice' ethos helps young people tackle new challenges and risks within a safe supportive environment, with heaps of opportunities to develop self-confidence and build trust with others.



RESILIENCE

Using activities like bushcraft and caving, children learn how to overcome challenges, persist through failures with determination and develop a positive, adaptable approach to problems they encounter.



LIFE SKILLS

From making independent choices at mealtimes to sharing a room, life skills are at the heart of every residential at Kingswood. Activities like nightline also help to develop communication and teamwork.

kingswood.co.uk T: 0800 655 6564



Best-laid PLANS

Guilty of trying to pack too much in on day trips?
Sometimes less is more, says **Lauren Francis**...

When considering an educational visit, it's important to make sure you are balancing experiences and learning. Sometimes it's too easy to focus on what objectives and outcomes the children will be meeting, while not paying enough attention to the day as a whole.

In my former role as a teacher, I found myself falling into the trap of overplanning school trips. My first outing was to a museum in London. This was a big journey for my classes and I wanted to ensure that we made as much of the day as we possibly could. I focused too heavily on learning outcomes and not enough on the holistic experience for the children. I thought that by planning for every inch of the day and booking every educational experience we could access – with strict schedules for each group – the pupils would get a lot out of the visit. While the children were able to experience a lot, it became a very tiring day for them. With so much information to absorb, pupils didn't come away with as much excitement and passion for the topic as I had hoped.

I was lucky enough to run a similar trip a few years later. Learning from my previous experience, I created a schedule which balanced the outcomes I was looking for with space to allow the children to develop their own curiosities. Giving pupils the chance to explore their own

passions alongside your curriculum focus allows them to see their learning positively, and not as something that hinders their natural search for knowledge.

This trip was not only more worthwhile for my classes, but for me too. It allowed me to engage more fully with them and not worry so much about the schedule. I learnt more about my pupils' passions and what sparked their interest, and I was able to share my enthusiasm with them in turn, building stronger relationships and increased engagement when we returned to school.

Balancing act

As the UK has reopened slowly over the last year, there are now more opportunities to organise worthwhile excursions and create a memorable experience for pupils, while still allowing them to cement their knowledge in a unique and interactive setting.

My current role involves creating these experiences for classes visiting the attraction where I work. I always endeavour to balance curriculum-focused learning with an engaging experience, allowing pupils space to explore their own ideas and passions within an outcome-focused workshop. Through encouraging pupils to ask the questions they have always wanted to in a unique space outside of their normal classroom, it allows them to develop the courage to

explore areas of learning they may have been unsure about or too shy to explore when in a traditional classroom environment. Through this, you may also discover a pupil's hidden passion, giving you the opportunity to help your student start to build the foundations of a lasting curiosity.

As we start to move towards normality with the easing of restrictions, school trips should once again become an integral part of curriculum planning. They can offer unique experiences that enrich the learning of pupils by allowing them to utilise their knowledge in an external environment and discover new things relating to a topic. Engaging with a topic outside of the classroom allows the words and pictures children saw in school to come alive in new and exciting ways, leaving a long-lasting impact which could ignite a passion and be the potential inspiration for an enduring love of learning.

Unique itinerary

Engaging with educational workshops during a visit gives pupils further opportunities to really delve into the heart of a topic with experts in that field, thus creating a newfound interest and excitement for the subject. This encourages pupils to dive deeper into their learning and gives them a desire to further extend their knowledge when they are back

“I focused too heavily on learning outcomes and not enough on the holistic experience for the children”



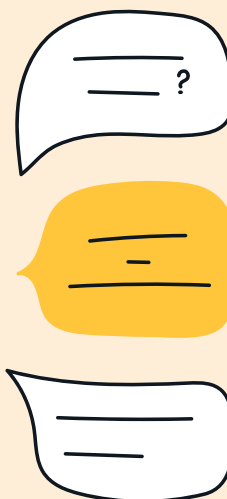
ARE VIRTUAL VISITS WORTH IT?

Over the last couple of years, school trips have seemed like an unattainable luxury for children. With lockdowns and Covid restrictions, it has been a struggle to facilitate an off-site visit to enrich pupils' learning and allow them to embed what has already been learnt both in the classroom and at home.

School trip venues have had to become very creative with their offering, and many attractions have continued these offers even though they have reopened their doors to on-site visits. This has allowed them to reach teachers and pupils who may not have considered visiting in the past due to cost or distance, vastly increasing their audience and the opportunity to inspire children across the country, or even the world.

These offerings vary, including live virtual workshops and tours, pre-recorded sessions which can be accessed on demand, interactive online activities and more. These experiences give pupils the unique chance to have access to experts, allowing them to pose questions to people who they may not have the chance to engage with in normal circumstances.

This broadening out of the idea of a "trip" has also affected teachers positively – meaning you're not restricted by location or budget. The chance to speak to an expert on your topic can really bring learning to life. Even if they are projected on your whiteboard, it doesn't make the experience any less worthwhile for your pupils.



about creating those lasting memories which can stem from an engaging learning provision with educators who understand how to develop curiosity from the spark already present, planted by the learning already achieved in your classroom. School trips are a valuable resource for learning, offering tools that can support your classroom learning. Ultimately, they could change your pupils' lives forever.



Lauren Francis is education programme development coordinator and DSL at Cadbury World. Visit cadburyworld.co.uk

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to find out how we could give your students the best school residential experience.



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next residential*



LEARNING JOURNEYS

Creativity through the forest

Your group will take part in something quite unique for an arts course – an adventure activity. Whether its canoeing on our private dock with the stunning Snowdonia mountain range as a backdrop, or climbing across the rock face on our via ferrata, students will be encouraged to observe, explore and experience the surrounding landscape. Heading back into the woods, students will recreate what they've seen and heard through immersion in the creative performing arts.

Living things and their habitats

Home to native red squirrels as well as various other wildlife, our Anglesey centre is perfect for learning about living things in their habitat. With day visits to Anglesey Zoo or Pili Palas and adventurous water activities on the Menai Strait included in the programme, children will experience real-life learning to support the science curriculum, before putting everything they have learnt into action with inspiring art, music, dance and drama activities.

Arts residential

This programme truly brings learning to life by combining various subjects with creative and performing arts. From students exploring, learning and observing their surroundings to inspire a 2D or 3D piece of art, to listening to the stories of Welsh myths and legends before recreating stills and scriptwriting, this course is sure to excite and support your school's goals and curriculum focus.

WE LOVE TO LEARN

Get creative in the outdoors

Enjoy ready-made residential programmes with the curriculum in mind at Conway Centres

With four centres across north Wales and Cheshire, Conway Centres use the great outdoors to immerse children in a reflective cultural celebration. Our creative and performing arts programmes enable students to engage in multiple intelligences to achieve a higher level of understanding and engagement in their academic learning.

We have carefully considered the demands of the national curriculum and have created inspiring arts programmes

to support students in broadening their knowledge in key topics. Our outside arts provision is about more than moving indoor activity outside: we've created learning spaces rich in natural finds to inspire your students' exploration of the environment.

Our creative specialists all come from education and will support your school's goals from the moment you book your trip through to when you are settled back at school.

CURRICULUM LINKS



GEOGRAPHY

Surrounded by woodlands, water, valleys and mountains, children will observe and learn about the stunning natural world around them, inspiring unique arts activities.



SCIENCE

Immerse students in the arts whilst supporting them in the science curriculum. Our centres are surrounded by natural habitats, animals and beautiful landscapes.



ENGLISH

Diary entries, script writing and memory books form part of our programme, enabling students to adapt their style of writing for a range of contexts.



Where history HAPPENED

Use a trip to help pupils develop a greater understanding of chronology and how historical events link together

HELEN KERRY

Whether taught at school, presented on a TV documentary or noted in a history book, most of us are aware of history's key moments and we know who the main protagonists are. You know, "1066 and all that". Understanding how life was different thousands of years ago can be relatively easy for our students to grasp – handling objects at Stonehenge to get under the skin of Neolithic life, for example, can help transport students back. Finding continuity, or things that are directly relatable, however, can be more challenging for them.

Appreciating how events link together throughout history, and then considering our place within it, is beneficial from both an academic and wellbeing perspective. "If we can find these links," says Katie Thoburn, learning manager at English Heritage, "it brings learning history to life. And this is where school trips can have a real impact. They help make the past much more relatable, tangible and assist pupils in developing a much greater understanding of period and chronology."

Hugely beneficial

There's nothing quite like standing in the places where history happened. Spending time in places where people lived, breathed, worked and fought can be hugely beneficial for students in understanding key moments in history in a

way that transcends text books. Pupils have a chance to interact with each other and their teachers in a new way, sparking conversation and debate.

Bea Honap-Baker, teacher of history and politics, sums it up, saying: "Students ask probing questions, get excited about learning new facts, and they enjoy learning about different perspectives about the past."

Understanding our place within history, too, can be massively beneficial for our wellbeing. Historic England has reported how heritage can help "improve personal wellbeing, by helping us understand

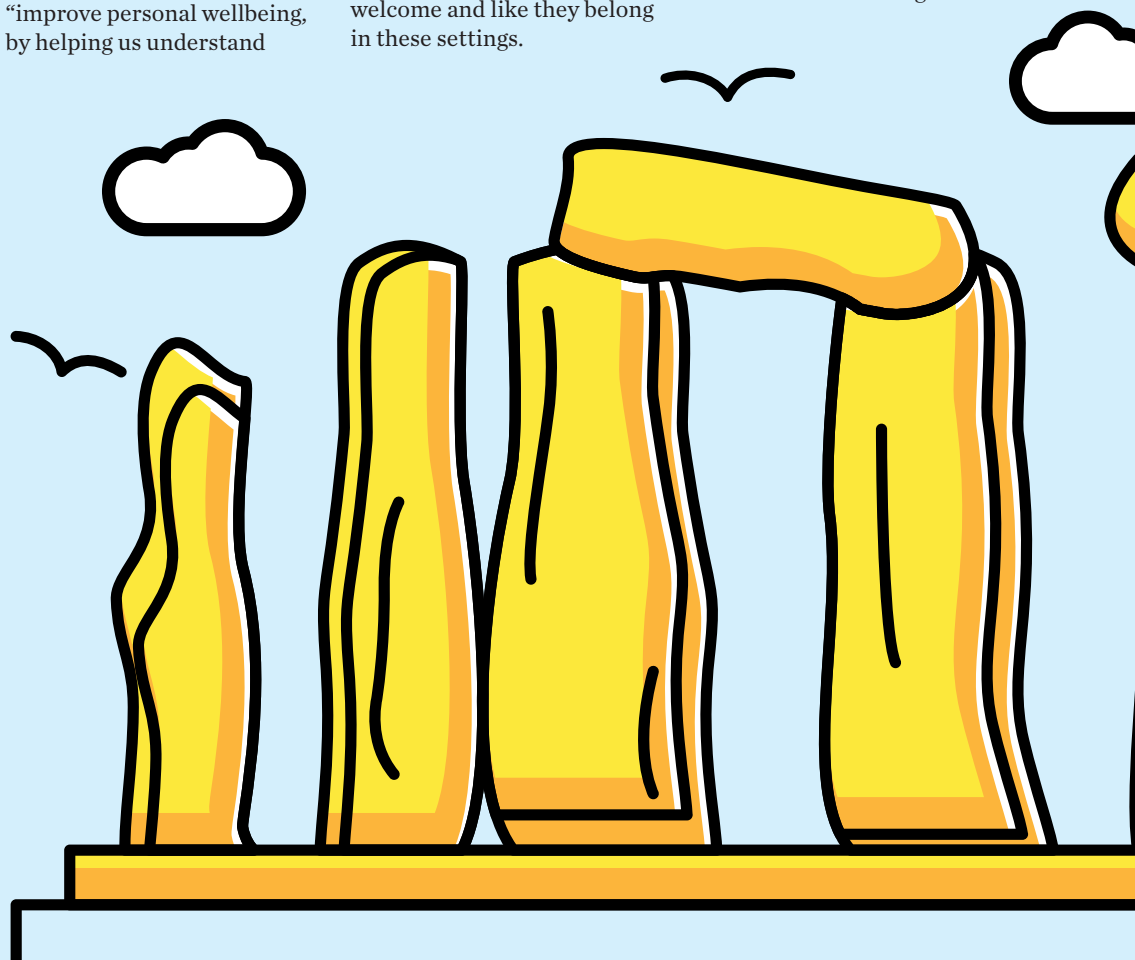
our past, our individual and communal identity and help us connect with the places where we live." Bea adds, "Importantly for us, it has allowed us to really connect with local history and has given us so many chances to develop our students' cultural capital."

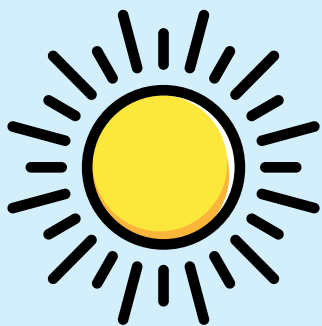
School trips also widen a student's horizons, reinforce their cultural rights and their right to participate in the culture of their community. Providing these experiences means they feel confident visiting as an adult – they feel welcome and like they belong in these settings.

Passing of time

It might be that you want to use a visit to a site to go into detail on a particular moment in time, like Neolithic life at Stonehenge, or you may want to use a trip to help students understand progress throughout history and the passing of time, as you can at sites such as Dover and Portchester. Either way, there are a wealth of historical sites throughout the country that can address both of these challenges.

While some heritage sites





“A school visit is often the first and only time a child will visit a heritage site”

offer expert-led tours at a small cost, there are also opportunities for you to organise your own free, self-led visit (see panel, right) at many locations. The prospect of organising one of these may bring you out in some sort of stress-induced rash, with risk assessments, permission slips and coach travel admin to arrange. However, venues are generally more than happy to help with your planning and can point you in the direction of what you need to know. Once you're out of the classroom, it's well worth the effort.

Taking the opportunity to get out of the classroom is enormously helpful for both you and your students, giving you the chance to explore both breadth and depth elements of the history curriculum. It also allows both you and your class to approach a topic from a new perspective.

A school visit is often the first and only time a child will visit a heritage site, even if it's to a very local place. Their excitement and joy at being out of the classroom visiting somewhere different is infectious.

SELF-LEAD A TOUR LIKE AN EXPERT

As well as being low cost, leading a trip yourself means you can choose to explore the topics, or even elements of topics, that are of particular interest to your class. The trip can be tailor-made according to your group's needs and you can spend as much or as little time as you need on the site

● **NARROW YOUR FOCUS.** Before you go, consider the topic you want to cover and how a visit to the site will benefit your students and their understanding of it. What parts do you want to go to and what can you do there?

● **DO A PRE-VISIT.** If you can, take up the opportunity to go on a free planning visit ahead of your trip. This way you can get all the logistical worries out of the way, as well as being inspired before the main event.

● **ASK ABOUT RESOURCES.** There are often free resources or handling collections available for schools to use – just make sure you book them in advance. At English Heritage we provide these at many of our sites and they always go down really well.

● **SORT OUT LOGISTICS.** Venues can often help with risk assessments and hazard information, taking the hassle out of planning your day. Before you go, find out who your point of contact is for the day, where the toilets are, where you can have lunch and where you can store your bags and coats.

● **GET BACK-UP.** Find out if there will be any staff or volunteers around to help on the day who can provide additional information or insight during your trip.



*Helen Kerry
is education
visits officer
at English
Heritage.*

english-heritage.org.uk/learn



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EVERY MAGICAL MINUTE

Let the outdoors inspire

PGL's Multi-Activity programme for older KS2 pupils offers more than just an adventure...

12.00pm

Arrive at your chosen PGL centre and meet your PGL Group Leader (or 'Groupie'). This is your dedicated PGL representative who will be on-hand throughout your trip to make sure you're in the right place at the right time and have everything you need. Before we get to the activities, lunch is calling! It's time to sample our reinvented menus, which now provide better quality and more ethically-sourced food, with a greater range of choice. After you've refuelled it's time to move into your accommodation – this will be your base during your stay with us.

2.00pm

An action-packed afternoon of adventures awaits! Your Multi-Activity programme will be loaded with activities on land, water and up high. Our activity instructors will tailor the session delivery to the ability levels of your pupils and encourage them to give it their all. With the improvements we've made to our



OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

Watching pupils grow in confidence as they tackle the climbing wall and manage to push themselves a little further each time they have a turn – this is what a PGL adventure is all about.

activities, such as auto-belay on our climbing walls and a three-person giant swing, your pupils will spend less time queueing and more time doing!

5.00pm

Did someone say food? By now your pupils will have worked up quite the appetite! It's off to the dining room for a hot meal, pudding and our guest-favourite, the self-serve salad bar – nutritious, delicious and something to suit all tastes.

7.00pm

To finish off an active day, your students will have a packed evening programme led by our enthusiastic team. You'll get to choose from 'back to base' style sessions such as 'Ambush', or gather around our campfire to share stories, sing songs and play games. Or, maybe you'd prefer something a bit more relaxing to round off the day, like our quiz

evening? Whatever your preference, we've got something to suit your group.

9.30pm

Bed time! Your pupils will absolutely be ready for some rest by this time, as will the teachers! Retire to your accommodation, brush teeth, PJs on and lights out.

7.30am

An early start (not too early, hopefully) and it's time to get a hearty breakfast on board. Mix and match from our range of porridge, cereals, fruit or a full English breakfast. Now they're all set, it's time to head out and conquer more new challenges...

{ BEFORE YOUR GO }

PREPARE

Speak to our friendly customer services advisors about your trip and discuss any additional requirements you may have. Our goal is to reassure you, the children and their parents every step of the way.

SET GOALS

What do you want to get out of the trip, both for you, the teacher, and your pupils? Let us know your specific goals before your trip and we'll work towards achieving them – together.

DISCUSS

Your pupils will be facing new and exciting challenges during their trip, likely including being away from home for the first time. Talk about what they're most excited or nervous about.

Life-changing MOMENTS

Yes, a residential means time away from classroom learning, but the benefits can reach far beyond childhood, says **Alex Williamson**

Residential trips can be an amazing experience for all involved, but after the isolation children have faced over the last two years, they've never been more important. No matter your age, you probably still remember your first residential – the sandwiches on the coach; the excitement of each new experience; how nervous you were at being away from home for the first time. These experiences can be truly life changing, with the memories lasting way beyond those precious few days at an adventure centre.

As a teacher, choosing a residential over a day trip can seem daunting. However, in my role as CEO at Inspiring Learning (of which Kingswood is a part), I've seen first-hand that residential trips give young people an important taste of independence that they simply can't get in a day setting. Staying away from home; making beds; choosing what to eat at mealtimes – these experiences all help children develop key life skills which will serve them long after they return home.

Even basic things such as sharing a room may be new to your pupils. This in itself helps build communication and empathy, as children support each other in what, for many pupils, will be their first time away from home.

A primary-aged pupil from London who recently visited us for a residential said that they “loved choosing our meals and sharing rooms. You gave us an experience that we will never forget.”

Spending time together away from screens and in the great outdoors also helps pupils bond with each other and with teachers. This effect can be especially beneficial if you take an autumn residential, with the benefits lasting through the whole academic year.

Positive impact

We've now had almost two years of uncertainty, worry and home-schooling brought about by the pandemic. For many of the teachers who have visited us since school trips were allowed to recommence last May, residential have taken on an even greater importance. In fact, when we surveyed over 300 teachers last year, over 90% said that the

reintroduction of residential trips would positively impact the mental health and wellbeing of children.

Two-thirds said they felt that young people had lost part of their childhood due to Covid, and over 80% felt there had been too much screen time. Residential trips and spending time in the great outdoors help children to rebuild face-to-face communication skills, confidence and resilience – all things young people have missed out on over the last two years.

Growing together

Of course, a residential trip does mean time away from traditional classroom-based learning. At a time when schools are playing catch-up with the curriculum, it's understandable that a residential might be looked at as a ‘just for fun’ activity, but play is actually a core part of any activity curriculum. A stay away allows children time to

build valuable relationships and communication skills with their peers, while also having fun. They'll be developing these skills without even realising it as they play, learn and grow together.

Two of the main attributes that can be boosted via time outside of the classroom are children's confidence and resilience. Numerous studies over the last decade have demonstrated that residential trips are one of the best

“These are special experiences that give children an excellent future mindset”



ways to build these important character muscles in young people. One of our recent guests from the Isle of Wight summed it up by saying that their residential had taught them to be “determined and never give up.”

Giving pupils opportunities to tackle new challenges and step outside their comfort zone is a great way to build resilience. The ‘challenge and risk’ element of the Ofsted inspection framework can be tricky for teachers to approach within a school setting but adventure centres are an ideal opportunity for pupils to try new things and face their fears in a safe and supportive environment, with specially trained team members there to encourage them every step of the way. This sentiment was echoed in a note I recently received from a pupil in Dorset, which said, “My favourite activity was abseiling because it helped me push my limits.”

Supporting vulnerable learners

Residential trips have also been proven to boost children’s engagement and attainment. This is particularly true for vulnerable children with challenging home lives. Research conducted by the University of Cumbria in 2019 by Dudman, Hedges and Loynes concluded that “residential experiences

support vulnerable learners, enabling them to achieve their expected results in SATs tests. Vulnerable pupils who went on residential trips after their SATs tests underachieved.” This shows that the benefits of residential trips can stretch far beyond confidence and friendship development.

The benefits of residential camps can even reach beyond childhood, providing young people with crucial life skills and tools that will help them progress through education and to the many opportunities awaiting them beyond. A good residential programme will be well-balanced, featuring a variety of activities to allow for growth in a mix of skills and behaviours across the length of your trip.

In our recent survey, we asked teachers what they felt the top benefits of a residential trip were. The most repeated feeling was that teachers loved watching their pupils improve in resilience, confidence and wellbeing before their eyes. This led to better relationships between pupils, as well as development in pupils’ individual skills, knowledge and understanding. These new skills were evident when classes returned to school. I love the fact that me and my team can be a part

of this key element of a young person’s development.

I’d encourage teachers to continue the learning started on trips back at school. Incorporate elements from your residential into your future lessons, whether that’s learning outside the classroom or considering the velocity of someone on a zip wire in a science session. It’s about capturing children’s attention and sparking their interests. Ultimately, children learn better when they’re active and can relate to a situation.

As well as bringing learning opportunities back from a tremendous residential trip, I hope that children leave us with memories that will last a lifetime. That first taste of independence; that sense of achievement; the thrill of overcoming a challenge – these are special experiences that give children an excellent future mindset.



Alex Williamson is the CEO of Inspiring Learning. The group includes

Kingswood, with 11 outdoor education centres across the UK, plus day camp specialists Camp Beaumont and the Skern Group. Find out more about Kingswood at kingswood.co.uk

“Wait, we have to learn?”

How to find the middle ground between fun and educational on a school trip

ALICE RAINES

Keeping students engaged in a classroom is hard enough, even when you’ve got a killer lesson plan and you’ve googled a popular meme to try and convince the kids you’re cool. So imagine how hard it is to get them interested in the gravitational energy of theme park rides when they’re in the middle of a school trip and can hear the UK’s fastest rollercoaster bursting into action behind them. I teach educational workshops at Thorpe Park and after a few lessons filled with blank faces and awkward silences, I knew I had to change things up.

I have a strong memory of one of my own primary school trips, but not for the best reason. I excitedly planned my outfit and packed my Tweenies lunchbox the night before, only to spend the day tramping up and down a Basingstoke canal, covered in mud. It was quite easily the most boring day of my young life. The only thing I learnt was not to laugh at your teacher when he drops his map in an oxbow lake or you’ll miss five minutes of golden time.

The difficulty is finding the middle ground between fun and educational. School trips should be enjoyable for both teachers and students and I’m a huge advocate for learning through fun. However, I also understand that proving a trip’s educational value can be essential for gaining the approval of parents or that one school governor who loves the word “no”.

Start early

When it comes to making sure your trip is educational, a vital tip is to start early. Incorporate your chosen venue into your lessons weeks before you visit. Choose specific experiences you know pupils will encounter on the day and discuss them in class.

This takes away a lot of the pressure on the day as you’ve done most of the hard work already. It means you won’t be spending the day trying to teach. Instead, the knowledge will already be there and it will be up to pupils to apply it. Many venues will have resources you can download beforehand. This can also be a huge help for students who may be nervous or struggle when their routine is adjusted.

Introduce competition

Once, when getting ready to deliver a marketing workshop to a class of surly teenagers whose main form of communicating was grunting, I thought, “Well, this isn’t going to work. I’m going to look like a right loser.” However, breaking the kids up into teams and introducing the chance of a half-decent prize into proceedings made quite the difference to enthusiasm levels.

I never knew

17-year-olds would be so eager to design their own marketing plan for a rollercoaster, but throw some doughnuts into the mix and suddenly it’s like they’re on Dragons’ Den. You know your class best and what kind of thing would motivate them, but introducing an element of competition can work wonders.

Embrace technology

We spend so long trying to get kids off their phones. If I had a penny for every time a text alert went off while I was talking about the velocity of The Swarm I’d be in Barbados by now. However, there are a range of fantastic apps out there that you can utilise to mix things up and keep kids interested.



“Proving a trip’s educational value can be essential for gaining the approval of parents”

Just don’t fall into the pitfall of simply converting worksheets into online resources.

For older students, think of ways to utilise social media. The internet is your oyster and there are plenty of ways to get creative. Off on a theatre trip? Have the students act out how they think the second half will go during the interval, film it, and upload it to their TikTok to watch when you’re back in the classroom. Art trip? Ask

students to recreate their favourite piece on Snapchat and hold an art show back at school. The possibilities are endless, and the weirder and more creative, the better.

There are also plenty of apps out there to help. Actionbound is one, and allows you to create a treasure hunt, complete with challenges and quests that pop up on your students’ phones when they reach certain co-ordinates. I was lucky to try this approach out on a staff teambuilding exercise and let me tell you, you haven’t

lived until you’ve run 300m while filming yourself doing the alphabet backwards. The best thing? You can set the coordinates far apart from each other and set short time limits – an excellent way to tire pupils out for the coach ride home (thank me later!).

Some apps, such as KidsGuard, even let you track where your groups are (with their consent, of course), so you’ll be able to send polite reminder to the cool kids in group C to keep moving after you notice they’ve been in the same spot for 40 minutes.

Post-trip activities

Squeeze the most out of your trip by carrying on projects or tasks after you get back to school. Just don’t set pupils an essay task where they talk about their trip – there’s a million and one more inventive ways to encourage students to retain what they’ve learnt on their trip.

Don’t forget to ask pupils if they have questions that weren’t answered during their visit. If so, get in contact with your venue’s education team and see if they can help. I often receive emails from students and teachers post-trip featuring extra questions that they were too shy to ask, or something they thought of on the coach ride home. Most places will be more than happy to assist.

Not every school trip is going to be life-changing for every student, but if you’ve all enjoyed yourselves, broken the monotony of the five-day week and learnt at least something, then who’s to say it’s not worth it?

HOW TO KEEP YOUR HEAD ON SCHOOL TRIPS

- Research quiet meeting points away from crowded areas.
- Leave with plenty of time, but not too much. There’s nothing worse than being stuck on a coach with no back-up plan.
- Ask venue staff if they have any resources for you to download ahead of time.
- If you don’t need to be with your pupils, find a good place for a cuppa.
- Remember to enjoy yourself – this is meant to be fun for you too.



Alice Raines is education officer at Thorpe Park

thorpepark.com/schools

Day in the LIFE

Ever wondered what being an education officer involves?
Chloë Walton-Stenson spills the beans...

It's just before 9.30am and at West Midland Safari Park we're about to welcome today's learners to the Safari Academy, our purpose-built, sustainably-made learning centre, perched by the side of the hippo lake. Along the entrance to the academy our wildflower beds are springing into action and there are great views from here across the safari. It's a little early for the giraffes, but the eland antelope are already wandering across the grass, taking things at a slow and leisurely pace (much like our learners at this time in the morning!).

My role at the park is education officer, which is as varied as it is exciting. A large part of my job is working on our accredited courses in animal care and animal management, but I also deliver educational experiences for visiting school groups. This means I can be delivering a lecture to post-16 learners on the mechanisms of DNA transcription in the morning and asking primary school children what noises dinosaurs make in the afternoon! Rest

assured, I did ask the post-16 learners what noises a dinosaur might make, but got a less enthusiastic response...

Qualified staff

Becoming an education officer requires a range of skills and experience, and this allows our educational offerings to meet the high standards our guests expect. All education staff at our park have a foundation degree, or higher, in an animal-related subject. Many of us have further degrees, such as master's degrees or PGCEs. What all our staff have in common is an endless enthusiasm for the natural world, a true passion for what we do, and a great love of tea and biscuits.

My day begins by arriving at work at 8.30am, then taking a brisk walk across the park to the Safari Academy. We start by checking our bookings board for the day's educational extras. During the summer we can have between 15 and 45 schools on-site on any given day, so our scheduling for animals, staff and rooms must be done with precision by our administrator.

Every day is different, but

when I'm teaching visiting school groups the morning typically begins with a safari ranger session. I board the school's coach and take them on a tour of the reserves. I love helping learners (and teachers!) identify our lesser-known species – if you struggle to tell your Pere David's deer from your lowland anoa, I can help with that!

The four-mile drive whizzes by as we chat about our tigers, elephants and lions, get up close and personal with the cheeky eland, and gaze upwards as giraffe walk alongside the coach. Our safari ranger experiences take around 90 minutes and covers a huge selection of the 140 species of animals we have at the park. Every year, we work with our wildlife keepers and conservation partner organisations to update our

script to ensure our tours contain the latest information about our animals.

Meet and greet

On a typical afternoon, I might lead a 45-minute 'walking safari' in the Land of the Living Dinosaurs. I'll present and guide a group of 20 students and teachers around our life-size animatronics. We start with a quick class photo by the T-rex skull, then jump back through

"I'm grateful to work with such knowledgeable colleagues in such an incredible environment"



time to the Permian era – the time before the dinosaurs. We walk through the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous period and immerse ourselves in activities – acting out a battle between a stegosaurus and an allosaurus; dancing a display like a dilophosaurus; stretching out as a team to make the 12m wingspan of a quetzalcoatlus.

My final session for the day might involve a 30-minute meet and greet with some of our smaller, friendlier animals, such as cockroaches, bearded dragons and chinchillas. I introduce animals by running a

guessing game, asking learners to think about the features of each creature. Children get to meet and stroke each animal and we discuss what role the animal plays in the wild, and what threats might be impacting their habitat.

We promote the highest standards of animal welfare and don't use the same animals more than once a day, which means each class visiting gets different experiences to take away. At the end of the session, I return the animals to their enclosures and monitor their behaviour.

Continuously developing

Throughout the year we undertake extensive reviews of our educational extras. We're always happy to receive feedback from visiting school groups and have worked with our partner primary school to develop our education sessions. We have excellent links with our local secondary

school and offer careers mornings, interview practise sessions and open days.

We've also worked extensively with our partner, Kidderminster College, to run accredited courses and bring together excellent FE provision in the animal management sector.

While environmental education and awareness seems to be a current topic in the media, we deeply believe that engaging with the natural world must be a lifelong experience, and not a trend. Our team has spent years studying our core areas of delivery, and are continuously developing as educators.

We work with five brilliant conservation organisations and are working to build messages from these partnerships into all of our education

HOW TO PLAN A ROARSOME WILD DAY OUT

- If you're travelling to a safari park or similar, always set aside the first 30 minutes on arrival for settling in and toilet breaks.
- Communicate with coach drivers about your itinerary and when their breaks are scheduled for to avoid delays during your day
- Guided tours are a great way to add educational value and curriculum links to parts of the venue you were going to visit anyway – this increases time efficiency. Because they take place outside, they're also a more Covid-safe option
- Let the education staff at your venue know in advance if there are specific animals or habitats you are currently learning about. We love the chance to show off our animal knowledge
- Plan enough, but not too much – remember to leave time in your day to enjoy the experience, rather than clock-watch
- Use your teacher preview tickets to practise walking the distances around the zoo you are visiting. Think about how long it will take you with 30 excited students in tow

experiences, delivering positive messages about what young people can do at home to make a difference to the natural world.

Every day at work is an amazing experience and I'm grateful to work with such knowledgeable colleagues in such an incredible environment. I'm reminded of this every morning when I stand at the gates to the academy, waiting for the day's lectures to begin.



Chloë Walton-Stenson is an education officer at West

Midland Safari Park. Find out more about educational visits by emailing education@wmssp.co.uk or call 01299 404888 (option 1). Schools are given trip planning support throughout, no deposits are required and schools can get up to 50% discount for ten or more paying people.

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6 THINGS TO DO AT...

West Midland Safari Park

Go wild on a four-mile safari, explore our adventure theme park and experience plenty of fun educational opportunities

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

Our 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 guide you with fantastic commentary.

2 Adventure theme park

During the summer season, schools can upgrade their admission tickets to include wristbands for our rides. Plummet 30 metres on the Venom Tower Drop, get soaked on Wild River Rafting or take it easy on the Congo Carousel.

3 Walk-through exhibits

There's plenty to do on foot too. Visit the Discovery Trail, home to penguins, red panda, 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 Living Dinosaurs and Ice Age.



4 Talks and shows

Throughout the day, there are various talks and shows available to help pupils learn even more about animals. Listen to a fascinating hippo talk next to the lake, or catch our popular sea lion show where you can admire the impressive abilities of our intelligent California sea lions!

5 Safari Academy

Located near the Hippo Lakes, our 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.



6 Outdoor learning

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, further enhance students' knowledge with a walking safari guided tour of our walk-through areas or an on-coach safari ranger experience. Our outdoor classroom, seating up to 30 pupils, provides a unique learning experience, with students surrounded by goats, chickens, rabbits and ferrets.

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LEARNING JOURNEYS

Session 1 - NEW Creative Language workshop

Pupils will utilise their knowledge of language to create a persuasive advertisement for a product of their own design. They will look at past adverts and discover ways to describe and persuade viewers to desire their product. They'll work in teams to create the most engaging tagline and utilise descriptive verbs and adjectives to convince the rest of their class that their product is the best.

Session 2 - Design and Technology workshop

Pupils will discover the fascinating process by which Cadbury develops new chocolate bars and learn how both wrapper and advertisements are linked to the design of each bar. They'll also take a closer look at Cadbury's packaging and discover how it has evolved over the past 100 years, work in small groups to design their own wrapper, and see real life chocolate moulds used in the Cadbury factory at Bournville.

Session 3 - The Maya talk

Pupils will be introduced to the great city of Chichén Itzá and discover the Mayan myths and legends about how humans were created. They'll also see real-life pods filled with the cocoa beans that were so valuable to the Maya in AD900, as well as the wooden whisk they used to make their favourite chocolate drink, xocolatl.

WE LOVE TO LEARN

A day choc-full of discovery

Explore history, design and much more with a day out at Cadbury World in Birmingham

With 32 years' experience and more than 2,000 school groups attending each year, Cadbury World offers unique educational trips that provide a fascinating insight into the nation's favourite chocolate brand. There's an assortment of interactive chocolatey zones to explore and a variety of informative curriculum-linked talks and workshops, including Bean to Bar, the Maya and Design & Technology.

The one-hour talks and workshops complement your group's day out perfectly, expanding pupils' knowledge on a range of topics. Self-guided tours are also available, currently priced from just £9.20 per pupil, with one adult admitted free for every eight paying children. All of this makes Cadbury World the perfect day out for schools. To find out more and to book, visit the website (details below).

CURRICULUM LINKS



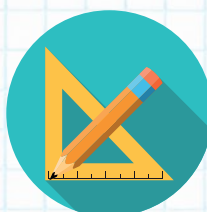
HISTORY

In Bull Street, the Cadbury Story and the Bournville Experience zone, uncover the philanthropy of the Cadbury family, and how their beliefs created a holistic approach to industry.



GEOGRAPHY

Pupils will explore the Aztec Jungle and uncover the impressive journey of the cocoa bean, all the way from South America to Europe and into the heart of Victorian England.



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Discover how the manufacture of chocolate has changed since Cadbury made its first bar, and how chocolatiers made chocolate by hand in the past.



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!

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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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7 SCHOOL TRIPS

you might not have considered

Searching for something a little left field? Look no further than these unusual options...



1

BACK IN TIME

Celtic Harmony Camp in Hertfordshire is the UK's largest reconstructed Iron Age settlement – pupils can get hands-on with mammoth hunting, basket making, foraging and more. celticharmony.org

2 HISTORY LESSON

Explore 3.5 acres of original trenches, try on gas masks and learn about the first world war from a soldier in uniform at Dreamy Hollow in Norfolk. dreamyhollowcamping.co.uk



3

THEATRE OF DREAMS

Walk in the footsteps of famous footballers at Manchester United Museum & Tour Centre. Pupils will get a chance to step through the tunnel, emerging into the 'Theatre of Dreams'. manutd.com

4



ORDER, ORDER!

Take a guided tour of Greater Manchester Police Museum then dress up and take part in a roleplay mock court trial. nationaljusticemuseum.org.uk



5 SPRING FORTH

Go to Bath and visit the only hot spring in Britain, where you can meet costumed characters including a soldier, slave girl, stonemason and priest. romanbaths.co.uk

SKIN & BONES

Accompany Founding Father Benjamin Franklin's landlady around his London home to learn about the history of medicine and find out why bones were found in the basement. benjaminfranklinhouse.org



6

7



SAFETY FIRST

Visit a life-size town at SafetyWorks in Newcastle and learn about health, safety and avoiding risk by taking part in memorable real-world scenarios. safetyworks.org.uk



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We are the Go-To-Guide for families.

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IMAGINATIONS**

**ENGAGING
CONTENT**

**FREE TO ENTER
COMPETITIONS**

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

// We really look forward to our copy of Raring2go! Magazine. We love the free to enter competitions especially, plus it's always packed with great ideas and suggestions for things to do as a family. //

Sarah, Chichester

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