

SUMMER 1 2024 NEWSLETTER

This is a bumper issue full of news, inspiration, resources and training opportunities to help support you in **delivering your curriculum outdoors** as well as making the most of **Outdoor Classroom Day on 23 May 2024.**

Should, Could or Would Not Take Outdoors...

The science curriculum presents itself as a useful starting point for identifying outdoor learning opportunities, but you can do this activity with other curriculum subjects, to identify outdoor learning opportunities within your curriculum.

- Take the National Curriculum e.g. Science
- For each year group, highlight which objectives **SHOULD** be taught outdoors.
- Then identify which objectives **COULD** be taught outdoors.
- And consider those objectives which **WOULD NOT** be covered outdoors.
- Then identify possible outdoor activities to enhance the learning outdoors.

Year 3 science programme of study	
National Curriculum Statements	Possible Outdoor Activities
<p>Plants</p> <p>Pupils should be taught to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify and describe the functions of different parts of flowering plants: roots, stem/trunk, leaves and flowers • explore the requirements of plants for life and growth (air, light, water, nutrients from soil, and room to grow) and how they vary from plant to plant • investigate the way in which water is transported within plants • explore the part that flowers play in the life cycle of flowering plants, including pollination, seed formation and seed dispersal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils identify the parts of a range of plants in the playground or local environment. • Pupils describe and make careful drawings of the parts of a range of plants in the playground or local environment. • Pupils take photographs or collect samples of parts of plants in the playground to sort and group. • Pupils observe how the plants in the playground or local environment change through the year, in particular, looking for buds, flowers, seeds and berries. • Pupils record the changes that take place through the year to plants in the playground or local environment.
<p>Light</p> <p>Pupils should be taught to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recognise that they need light in order to see things and that dark is the absence of light • notice that light is reflected from surfaces • recognise that light from the sun can be dangerous and that there are ways to protect their eyes • recognise that shadows are formed when the light from a light source is blocked by an opaque object • find patterns in the way that the size of shadows change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils notice surfaces in the playground that reflect light. • When outside explain to the pupils that they must not look at the Sun and talk about precautions that can be taken to protect their eyes. • Pupils look for shadows in the playground caused by the objects blocking the light from the Sun. • Pupils observe how dark shadow are caused by opaque objects and lighter shadows are created by translucent objects. • Pupils use the Sun as a light source to create shadows with their bodies. • See Trailblazer Sun Activities

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Outdoor Classroom Day
23 May &
7 November 2024

Free Resources ...

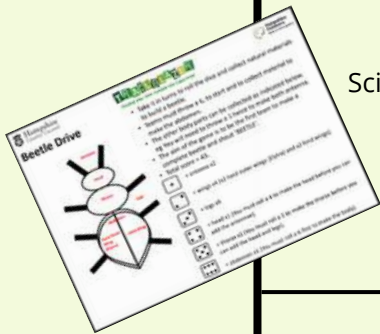
TRAILBLAZER

Finding your feet outside the Classroom!

Need ideas how to embed outdoor learning in your curriculum?

We have lots of FREE resources on our [Trailblazer website](#) or click on the links below. You can search on the website by curriculum subject and by key stage. If there is something you need that is not there, then drop us a line at outdoor.education@hants.gov.uk

Subject	Trailblazer Resource
English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor Spelling and Phonic Activities • Poetry Outdoors
Maths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fractions Outdoors • Outdoor Number Activities • Outdoor Times Tables Games and Activities • Outdoor 100 Square Activities • Outdoor Maths Shape and Angles Activities • Size Measurement Activities Outdoors
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bat and Moth • Beach Activities • Beetle Drive Using Natural Materials • Food Chain and Food Web Activities Outdoors • Habitat Activities Outdoors • Leaf Activities • Minibeasts • Mud and Soil Activities • Pond Dipping • Sun Activities • Tree Activities
Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beach Studies Fieldwork and Follow Up Activities • River Studies Fieldwork
History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celts and Iron Age Themed Outdoor Activities • Roman Themed Outdoor Activities • Stone Age Themed Outdoor Activities • Viking and Anglo Saxon Themed Outdoor Activities
Art	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art Using Natural Materials • Hapa Zome • Tree Faces
PE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orienteering Skills Years 1-6 and Beyond • Outdoor Team Building Activities



Outdoor Classroom Day
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Planning for Outdoor Learning

TRAILBLAZER

Finding your feet outside the classroom!

Opportunities for outdoor learning exist within and across all curriculum areas. Learning outdoors offers many opportunities for learners to deepen and contextualise their understanding within curriculum areas, and for linking learning across the curriculum in different contexts and at all levels.

When planning for outdoor learning, these questions are useful to reflect on :

- Which experiences will have more impact on learning if done outdoors?
- How can learning outdoors enhance and deepen learning within curriculum areas?
- Which experiences are best suited to a combination of indoor and outdoor learning?
- How can learning indoors best be consolidated, progressed or enhanced using the outdoors?
- What opportunities exist for linking learning across the curriculum?

From *Curriculum for Excellence through Outdoor Learning 2010*

Using the Outdoors to Support Your National Curriculum Delivery - Training

Our next open training course [Using the Outdoors to Support Your National Curriculum Delivery](#) is taking place on Tuesday 30 April 2024 at Stubbington Study Centre, PO14 2ND.

Cost £115 SLA (£155 non-SLA) per delegate.

This 1-day practical hands-on course is for anyone with an interest in developing these outdoor learning opportunities either as a regular structured part of the school curriculum or as a way of delivering elements of the National Curriculum. It will help you make the most of your school grounds or local area, using low cost or existing school resources.

Book courses through the Hampshire County Council Learning Zone. Please call 0370 779 1498 or email karen.storey@hants.gov.uk if you have any queries.

We can also run this training as an inset day, bespoke for your school.

Please complete [this form](#) for a bespoke course.



Outdoor Classroom Day - 23 May 2024

Outdoor Classroom Day is a global movement to make time outdoors part of every child's day. Having a whole school Outdoor Classroom Day provides an opportunity to try out some curriculum outdoor learning and build confidence with adults and learners alike, as well as an opportunity to share practice. There are lots of ideas and resources on the [Outdoor Classroom Day website](#).



In the News ...

Save the Date!

The Hampshire Outdoors' 2024 Outdoor Learning Conference will be on **Wednesday 6 November 2024**.

It will be held at King Edward VI Preparatory School, Romsey, SO51 9ZH. As usual, it will be packed with practical workshops and ideas to support you using your outdoor space for teaching and learning and to **'Make every school day an outdoor day!'**

More details and booking information will follow soon.

HAMPSHIRE OUTDOORS

OUTDOOR LEARNING CONFERENCE

• Make every school day an outdoor day! •

Wednesday 6th November

Stroud School (King Edward VI) Romsey

SAVE THE DATE

Hampshire County Council

www.hants.gov.uk

DfE Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy Update

According to the [DFE Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy](#), by 2025, all education settings need to have nominated a sustainability lead and put in place a climate action plan. Pupils are to be engaged in the process of moving towards net zero and creating a more biodiverse and less polluted environment in which to learn and connect with nature.

Stay up to date by signing up to the DfE's Climate in Education Snapshot. Here is the **March 2024** Edition.

The National College is offering CPD leading to a **Certificate in Sustainability and Climate Education for Staff**.



Department for Education



National Education Nature Park and Climate Action Awards



NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

National Education Nature Park Webinars

The [Natural History Museum](#) are offering free webinars to support education settings with getting involved in the National Education Nature Park. You can register for upcoming webinars and catch up on previous webinars for free on the [National Education Nature Park website](#).



Outdoor Classroom Day

23 May & 7 November 2024



Hampshire County Council

Hampshire Outdoors



Portsmouth CITY COUNCIL



ISLE of WIGHT COUNCIL



West Berkshire COUNCIL

In the News ...

Books to Support Curriculum Learning Outdoors

The award winning *National Curriculum Outdoors* is a series of books which as a scheme of work, provide an opportunity for a whole school approach to outdoor learning. The series provides progression in knowledge and skills across the key stages and is clearly linked to the National Curriculum objectives.



THE SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE CURRICULUM OUTDOORS

KEY STAGE 2



Alun Morgan, Deborah Lambert, Michelle Roberts, Sue Waite

A new book *Sustainability and Climate Change Curriculum Outdoors at KS2* has just been published. Written primarily by the authors of the National Curriculum Outdoor series, this book promotes the inclusion of climate change and sustainability issues within the primary curriculum. It provides age-appropriate outdoor activities, curriculum links and opportunities for progression in knowledge and skills across lower and upper KS2. It supports schools to deliver the DfE Sustainability and Climate Change strategy – outdoors.

You can purchase the books [here](#).

The Local School Nature Grants Programme is Back for 2024!

Learning Through Landscapes (LTL) are offering schools and early years settings the chance to take outdoor learning to the next level. With a Local School Nature Grant, (LSNG) you could get your hands on:

- £500 worth of products
- NEW - An additional Climate Curriculum Pack (valued at £150)
- 4 hours of CPD on your setting's site, broken down as follows:
 - 2 hours of CPD on the topic chosen from the LSNG training list for any adults from your setting. This is an opportunity for the staff to benefit, not just the lead applicant.
 - 2 hours on site on the same day to undertake LTL's Climate Ready School Grounds digital tool. This will generate a report on how your school grounds can be improved, particularly from a climate perspective. [Click here](#) to find out more information about this
- 1 years membership to LTL. This sees access to exclusive discounts, offers and outdoor learning resources.
- 3 webinars on a variety of topics.
- A plaque from the players of the People's Postcode Lottery to display in your setting's reception area.

Key application closing dates:

- Round 1 - Friday 26 April, 2024
- Round 2 - Friday 6 September, 2024
- Round 3 - Friday 8 November 2024



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Cross-curricular Working at Minstead Study Centre



With some creative thinking, a residential or day visit to Minstead Study Centre can provide a host of cross-curricular opportunities for classes. At the Centre we have a wide variety of activities available for our visitors to enjoy. Below we use just one example of how schools might expand the numbers of subjects covered during a visit to our Centre.

A New Forest Enquiry

Many groups who visit us – either for a day visit or residentially - choose to spend time in the area surrounding the Centre, investigating the way in which the New Forest is managed for people and wildlife. This is often done with a Geography perspective, but there are a host of other subjects which we can touch on as well. The basic activity we might do involves a walk into the National Park – but whilst on this walk we can do a huge variety of different activities giving a wealth of ideas and data for schools to take back home.

Maths

Within any habitat, there are a lot of things to measure, and lots of data to collect! Using a variety of measuring equipment groups on a walk in our local area could collect data on:

- Heights of trees.
- Circumferences of trunks.
- Numbers of points on a holly leaf.
- Number of whirls on a fir cone (leading to discussions about the Fibonacci sequence)
- Tally charts of traffic.
- % groundcover of different plants.
- Finding different shapes in nature.



English

Walks in the Forest end up being incredibly language rich experiences, so teachers and leaders making word collections en-route can lead to some fantastic word banks. These can be used back at school for poetry, persuasive writing, diaries, letters or newspaper articles.



History

The New Forest was designated in Norman times, and has a rich history with stories and folklore very local to our Centre around the death of William Rufus. So the area makes a fantastic study area for groups looking at this era, but for prehistoric themes, a walk in any wild area can lead to excellent discussions about settlements – where to put them and why.



Cross-curricular Working at Minstead Study Centre (continued)



Geography

Many groups visiting us undertake enquiries looking at Human impact in the National Park, and how the New Forest Code is in place to try to protect the area. We have super opportunities for investigating footpath erosion, and for looking at the effectiveness of the New Forest code.

Science

- Investigating habitats, looking at adaptations of plants and animals in some of the New Forest's magical habitat areas (bog, heath, woodland and stream)
- Classification.
- Investigating rocks and soils
- Investigating plants – parts of a plant, reproduction and seed dispersal.



Art and Craft

Children can bring sketch books and make close up or landscape sketches during their walk. There's also a great opportunity whilst out in the forest to use natural materials to make sculptures – using Andy Goldsworthy or James Brunt as inspiration.

PE

A hike in the Forest is a super Outdoor and Adventurous Activity challenge. By doing practice walks at school in the time leading up to the visit, children can demonstrate improvements in performance over time, as well as making observations about the impacts of exercise (on heartrate, breathing and temperature).

Visiting Minstead Study Centre

The Centre is open for residential and day bookings throughout the year. Looking into 2024/2025 we have capacity for residential bookings in the autumn and winter terms, so please do get in touch if you are interested. The Centre is a super location for any school's first residential, with one class staying at a time, nurturing activities, warm, friendly and professional staff, delicious food and a lovely, homely feel.



And for day visits we offer a wide range of activities in and around our 7 acre site.

For more information, please have a look at our [website](https://www.minstead.sc), drop us an email minstead.sc@hants.gov.uk or give us a call on 02380 813437.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Centre.



Using Outdoor Learning to Deliver the National Curriculum

Outdoor learning is our speciality at The Sustainability Centre! We work with children from reception age, right up to university students and most of our activities take place outside in our 55 acres of glorious woodland in the South Downs National Park. We offer a wide menu of activities covering many aspects of the National Curriculum, with a focus on Science, Geography and History. All of our visits are planned bespoke to ensure curricular and group needs are met.

We really make the most of our site in Science as we have a pond, extensive woodland and wildflower meadows – perfect for habitats and life cycle studies. The children can learn how to use quadrat, classification keys and identify how animals have adapted to their environments. Groups also love our renewable energy day where they can create their own circuits and power them using different renewable sources. A real highlight is using our Green Energy bikes which they can use to play racing games, create paint spinning art and make delicious smoothies.



In Geography, pupils learn all about sustainable buildings and try their hands at creating rammed chalk walls, clay bricks, an earth oven and even an earth bag arch that they can all walk across. Our water conservation, map reading and orienteering activities give groups the chance to learn while exploring large areas of our site.

As we were once the site of HMS Mercury, a naval communications base, we are perfectly placed for an historical study of World War II. We also offer a Saxons in the Meon Valley day, utilising our woodland hall as a Saxon longhouse. Another favourite is the Stone Age, where children learn about tools and firelighting and use the quern stones to grind grain to make and cook their own tasty treats.

And of course, being The Sustainability Centre, all of our activities have a theme of sustainability running through them – from looking at how we can use natural materials found on site for activities using chalk, willow and clay to comparing how sustainable we are with our ancestors.

For more information contact The Education Team education@sustainability-centre.org



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Sustainability Across the Curriculum

Education for Sustainability 101

This series of informative videos from the [Ministry of Eco Education](#) summarises the key ideas and organisations operating in the spaces of Energy, Transport, Food, Nature, Society, Waste and Water. The 10 minute videos are the perfect summary for teachers, saving them time and energy, by sharing the best resources and opportunities available for schools. Explore the [full series of videos here](#).

The Ministry of Eco Education weaves together the best free resources and opportunities from 100's of organisations into a framework and approach, making it easier for teachers to integrate sustainability across their existing curriculum. The Ministry of Eco Education currently supports more than 3,650 schools across the country for free. Get in touch paul@ministryofeco.org



The Primary Awards for Green Education In Schools

The [Primary Awards for Green Education in Schools](#) (PAGES) is a new awards scheme for primary schools in the United Kingdom.

The award's aim is to assist and encourage environmental education for young people aged 5-11 years. They promote cross-curricular work on the environment and ANY work you are doing at your school covering any kind of environmental issue can be entered. Work produced in the summer term of 2023, or during the 2023-24 academic year is eligible for entry. The closing date for receipt of entries is 3 May 2024.



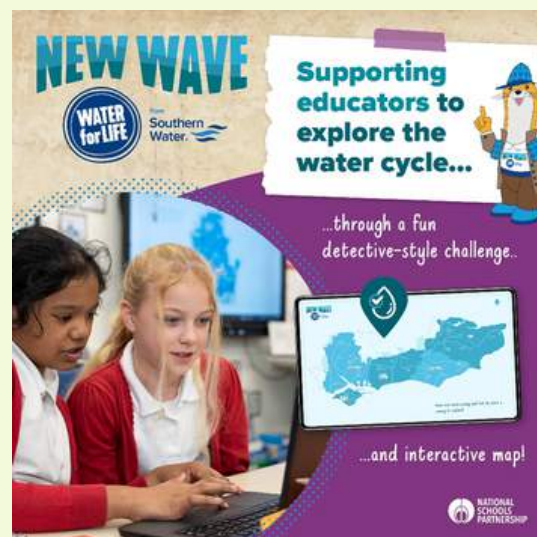
Southern Water's New Wave Programme

Dive into Southern Water's [New Wave](#) programme where you can access a host of localised and curriculum-linked resources to initiate conversations around water for life.

Bring the water cycle to life through fun, free resources that feature local waterways across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Water Detectives is a fully resourced, curriculum-linked KS2 lesson that connects geography and science through your area's water cycle. PLUS, Southern Water are offering two A4 posters of the water cycle for the first 50 schools to download their free Water Detectives resource.

And that's not all, Southern Water have a whole host of resources for you to explore, including a whole-school assembly, a fast-paced strategy card game and an interactive gameshow on wastewater treatment for KS3 and KS2.

Simply head to their [website](#) to sign up and download the resources today!



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Free CPD



The Wild Minds Podcasts

The Wild Minds Podcast by Marina Robb, Forest School and Nature-based Trainer and founder of The Outdoor Teacher.



Resources for Forest Education Professionals

Training videos created by Forest Education Network for England for practitioners eg risk assessing trees in your learning area, assessing risk in a woodland space before a visit, tree health resources for schools, etc.



Forest School Association Free Webinars

The Forest School Association (FSA) public archive holds a selection of their webinar recordings, which are free to view. FSA Members have access to the entire back catalogue of webinars.



The Breaking Into The Playground Podcast

This outdoor learning podcast aims to remove barriers to learning for children and empower teachers with confidence, skills, ideas and resources.



The Outdoor Ed School Podcast

These free podcasts from the Outdoor Ed School will walk you through how to provide meaningful team challenges, problem solving tasks, review models, and group discussion topics outdoors.

Free Outdoor Learning Webinars

Although American, you might find these free webinars from the Outdoor Learning Store useful.

Or these recordings from previous webinars.



1000 Hours Outside Podcasts

1000 Hours Outside is another American organisation. Their 1000 Hours Outdoor Podcasts are free and through their various speakers and authors, they cover many interesting subjects on outdoor learning.



Geography Subject Knowledge Programme

The Royal Geographical Society (with IBG), with support from the DfE, have created a free, online programme for trainee/early career geography teachers.





UPCOMING COURSES



Hampshire
County Council

Hampshire Outdoors

Hampshire Outdoors offer a wide range of courses covering Outdoor Learning; Fire Lighting; Risk Management; Camping in the School Grounds, Physical Education; Duke of Edinburgh Award, Bikeability and First Aid courses.

See [here](#) for more details on all the courses we offer.

Many of our courses can be offered as bespoke courses for your school. If you would like to book a bespoke course please complete [this form](#). Book early to secure the dates you want!

Offsite and Visit Leader Course (valid for 5 years)

£115 SLA (£155 non-SLA) per delegate - 1 day course

- Thu 2 May Nature Discovery Centre, Thatcham, RG19 3FU
- Thu 9 May Stubbington Study Centre, PO14 2ND
- Wed 5 June Gilbert White Study Centre, Selborne, GU34 3JU
- Wed 26 June Stubbington Study Centre, PO14 2ND
- Thu 27 June Woodmill Outdoor Centre, Southampton, SO18 2JR
- Thu 4 July Testwood Lakes Centre, Totton, SO40 3XP

Full Educational Visits Coordinator (EVC) Initial Training Course (valid for 5 years)

Please note that both sessions must be attended. £150 SLA (£200 non-SLA) per delegate

- Wed 15 & Thurs 16 May - 13:00-15:30 - Virtual via Teams

Educational Visits Coordinator (EVC) Refresher Training (valid for 5 years)

Half-day refresher for those EVC's whose qualification has expired.

£85 SLA (£110 non-SLA) per delegate - 0.5 day refresher course

- Wed 22 May - 13:00-16:00 - Virtual via Teams

Using the Outdoors to Support Your National Curriculum Delivery

£115 SLA (£155 non-SLA) per delegate - 1 day course

- Tues 30 April 2024 - Stubbington Study Centre, PO14 2ND

Emergency Paediatric First Aid

£100 SLA (£130 non-SLA) per delegate - 1 day course

- Fri 21 June 2024 - Minstead Study Centre, SO43 7GJ

Emergency First Aid at Work

£100 SLA (£130 non-SLA) per delegate - 1 day course

- Wed 15 May 2024 - Stubbington Study Centre, PO14 2ND

Outdoor First Aid Emergency Action

£100 SLA (£130 non-SLA) per delegate - 1 day course

- Thursday 6 June 2024 - Stubbington Study Centre, PO14 2ND



Book courses through the [Hampshire County Council Learning Zone](#).

Please call 0370 779 1498 or email karen.storey@hants.gov.uk if you have any queries.

Themes and Days for Outdoor Learning

Here are lots of events and activities coming up that can be used to support getting children active and learning outdoors!

See [Trailblazer Calendar of Themes and Days for Outdoor Learning](#) for the academic year 2023/34, so you can see what's coming up and plan accordingly!



22 Apr - Earth Day A day to remember the environment and to continue to do the little things that help our planet. The 2024 theme is *Planet vs. Plastics*.

[20 Earth Day activities for children](#)

24 Apr - Beep Beep Day A day to teach important road safety basics to children aged 2-7 years.



28 Apr - Save the Frogs Day aims to help raise awareness about the plight of frog species worldwide. [Make a house for frogs and toads](#) in your school grounds, where frogs, toads and newts can find safe lodging through the winter's chill.

1 - 31 May No Mow May For the whole month of May, don't mow your lawn to encourage pollinators! Maybe you can set aside part of your school's grass area to not be mown.



1 - 31 May National Share-a-Story Month takes place through the month of May. The theme for 2024 is '*A Feast of Stories*'. Share stories outdoors. We Be Kids also have a whole bank of [nature stories for storytelling](#).

5 - 11 May Hedgehog Awareness Week The British Hedgehog Preservation Society promote this day to highlight the problems hedgehogs face. [Hedgehog activities for schools](#) covering a range of curriculum subjects. Use these resources and become a Hedgehog Friendly School.



6 - 12 May National Hedgerow Week Why not carry out a biodiversity survey on your school or local hedges? Whilst the online data entry for the [OPAL Biodiversity Survey](#) is closed, you can still use the survey to explore hedgerows in your local area.

18 - 26 May World Orienteering Week Why not create an orienteering course on your school grounds? [Trailblazer Orienteering Skills Years 1-6 and Beyond](#)



22 May National Numeracy Day A day to celebrate numbers and how we use them in everyday life. Use some of the maths resources on the [Trailblazer](#) website to take your maths outdoors.

22 May International Day for Biological Diversity This day seeks to raise awareness of the vital importance of preserving biodiversity. Why not carry out a biodiversity survey of your school grounds?

