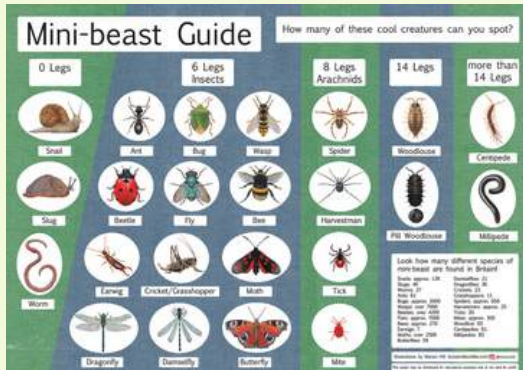


SUMMER 2 2024 NEWSLETTER

Summer is finally upon us and hopefully you will find plenty of opportunities to get your children outdoors for their learning! In this edition we consider taking **Science Outdoors**.

There are obviously many opportunities for teaching science outdoors, indeed some aspects of science are better taught outdoors because children are able to see and experience how science is relevant to their lives and the world beyond school. Did you know that the National Curriculum in England mentions “use of the local environment” 10 times within the science programmes of study for Key Stages 1 and 2? These places can be home to a large variety of wildlife including insects, spiders, beetles, woodlice, slugs etc. Buzz and Scuttle have some great FREE identification charts for children to use, when out on their mini-beast hunts.



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Biodiversity in the School Grounds

Emma Cooper, General Inspector/Adviser for Science, considers how to scientifically explore some of the biodiversity existing in your school grounds.

Last year, I wrote about the importance of developing long studies within science and how opportunities for real experiences are vast. Within your science curriculum, you could look at steps which can be taken to increase awareness of the importance of native plants, animals and habitats, and to increase species-richness in a locality. The National Curriculum for Key Stage 1 has a focus on enabling pupils to experience and observe phenomena, looking more closely at the natural and humanly constructed world around them. And in Key Stage 2, to broaden their scientific view of the world around them.

You might think you have underused or overgrown areas within your school grounds, but such areas can be ideal for the study of biodiversity. Biodiversity is the variety of life. Collecting real information and listing all the plants, invertebrates, birds and mammals found in your school and then focusing on actions that could be taken to increase the levels of plant, insect, and animal life by looking closely at the conditions to see if some areas are better than others for wildlife.

A great place to start is simply a hedge. Hedgerows can be important havens for biodiversity both in rural locations and more urban. Choose a 3 metre stretch which is typical of the whole hedge. Start by looking closely at the structure of the hedge. Does it consist of just bushes, trees or a mixture of the two? Then looking at the gaps in the hedge and the overall shape. Is it neatly trimmed, untrimmed with straggly edges and long thin branches growing from the top. Or does it consist of thicker branches which has been heavily cut back. You might want to take photographs of the area or children could make a detailed sketch.



The next step would be to estimate the number of flowers, berries and nuts within the 3m stretch of hedge. This will help the children to identify if the hedge is a source of food for wildlife. It is very important to remind children about the risks associated with berries and seeds growing in the wild and that, although animals might eat them, some are poisonous to humans.



After identifying any potential food sources for the wildlife, the children can then be tasked to see if they can find the wildlife. Small containers could be used to 'catch' any invertebrates after gently shaking the hedge so that they fall off the branches. Be very careful, however, to not disturb any nesting birds during this search. It would be ideal for the teacher to inspect the hedge area ahead of this activity. Some animals and plants are only found where certain hedge bushes grow.

Children could then record their findings using an invertebrate guide to help them. This could lead to them creating their own school invertebrate guide for future classes to use. Photos of observational drawings could be made with a description of the invertebrate found.



Biodiversity in the School Grounds (continued)

Number of legs, whether it has wings or special markings are all useful information. The invertebrates that are found are also a food source for any birds, mammals and other invertebrates within the local area.

Finally, the children could look along the base of the hedgerow for signs that any other animals might be using the hedge for shelter and protection. Different animals make holes of different sizes. Look for holes and measure the size of them. A hole that is 10-30cm is likely to be a rabbit or over 30cm a fox or badger. Whereas holes that are between 5-10cm might be made by a rat and smaller still, between 2-5cm a mouse or vole. The smallest holes, such as those under 2 cm are likely to have been made by an insect.

Remember to be safe whilst exploring the hedges. Be careful with younger children as hedges are likely to have prickles and thorns. Always cover open cuts before and wash your hands thoroughly afterwards especially before eating. Please also be careful not to harm the environment or any wildlife you find. When you have identified the invertebrates, carefully return them to where they were found.



If you do conduct such a survey, sharing your findings with a local school or even at a science network session could help us to build a picture of the biodiversity in our school grounds.

Emma Cooper, HIAS Science Inspector/ Adviser

Outdoor Learning Conference

Join us in Discovering How to
'Make Every School Day an Outdoor Day!'
at the Hampshire Outdoor Learning Conference!

Calling all educators, nature enthusiasts, and outdoor lovers! Join us for a day of exploration, inspiration, and practical workshops at the Hampshire Outdoor Learning Conference. Mark your calendars for the Wednesday 6th November 2024, and make your way to Stroud School (King Edward VI), Romsey, SO51 9ZH.

The day will bring opportunities to attend practical workshops, listen to keynotes, network and collaborate with likeminded individuals.

Limited spaces available, so secure your spot early!

- Cost: Hampshire Outdoors SLA: £100, Non SLA: £150
- **Workshops on offer**
- **Book here**



HAMPSHIRE OUTDOORS
**OUTDOOR LEARNING
CONFERENCE**

• Make every school day an outdoor day! •

Wednesday
6th November

Stroud School
(King Edward VI)
Romsey

**BOOK
NOW**



Hampshire Outdoors SLA: £100
Non SLA: £150

Hampshire
County Council

www.hants.gov.uk

Outdoor Learning Networking Opportunities

The **Hampshire Outdoor Learning Group** is next meeting at Knightwood Primary School, Chandler's Ford, SO53 4HW on **Tuesday 11 June**, 4pm to 6pm.

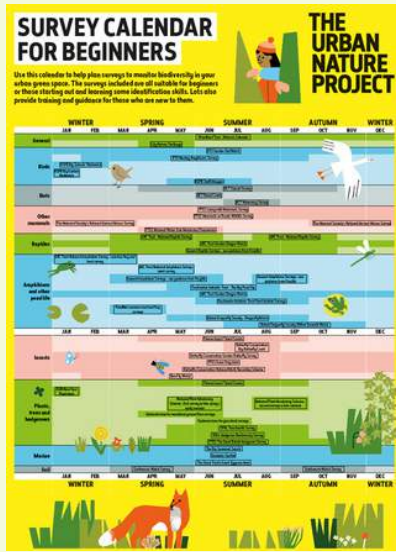
Please let Tara Kennard T.Kennard@knightwood.hants.sch.uk know if you would like to attend.

The next **Schools Environmental Education Network (SEEN)** meeting is on **Wednesday 26 June** at the Hawthorns Centre on Southampton Common, SO15 7NN 3.30pm to 6pm.

Please let Marcus Grace mmg1@soton.ac.uk know if you are planning on attending.

Citizen Science Opportunities

Citizen science projects are a great way to learn more about wildlife, at the same time as helping to protect it. They also provide children with meaningful science opportunities which can contribute to scientific research.



If you want to help track the wildlife in your school and local areas, you can use this calendar to find easy surveys that suit your schedule and skill level. [UK Survey Calendar for Beginners](#)

The surveys included are all suitable for beginners or those starting out and learning some identification skills. Lots also provide training and guidance for those who are new to them.

Here are some of the citizen science projects you could get your children involved in:

There's still time to sign up to Plant Your Pants!

Burying pants is a technique that's been used by scientists the world over to engage people in the science of soil health. The healthier the soil, the more disintegrated the cotton pants will be once they are dug up. You will also be able to share your findings online thanks to the interactive soil map and help build up a picture of soil health across the country.



The Big Butterfly Count



This is a UK-wide survey aimed at helping assess the health of our environment simply by counting the amount and type of butterflies (and some day-flying moths) we see. The Big Butterfly Count runs from **Friday 12th July 2024 to Sunday 4th August 2024.**



Big Schools' Birdwatch

This activity is about counting the number of birds in your school grounds. It only takes an hour, so one lesson or lunchtime is ideal. The Big Schools' Birdwatch is the largest citizen science project for schools, taking place January to February each year.



Freshwater Watch

This is a global citizen science project run by [Earthwatch Europe](#). Help scientists, organisations and governments understand how our fresh water and the life it supports is faring.



Free or Subsidised School Visits...



Free Nature Workshops at Winchester Science Centre

Get set for a nature adventure! At Winchester Science Centre, we've teamed up with Butterfly Conservation to offer a brand-new way for schools to experience our amazing outdoor environment. Come and enjoy a free two-hour outdoor lesson right in the heart of Magdalen Hill Down reserve before heading to the Science Centre to experience an exciting new environmental workshop.

The Science Centre is just a five-minute walk from Butterfly Conservation's Magdalen Hill Down reserve. Part of the South Downs National Park, Magdalen Hill Down is home to thirty-six different species of butterfly. You'll spot lots of wildflowers, insects and other wildlife here, many of which cannot be found anywhere else. On your trip, you'll experience two Butterfly Conservation workshops. Discover more about habitats that can be found in the hedgerows and wildflower meadows or learn about the minibeasts of the South Downs. Then return to the Science Centre for one of the awesome science Inspirer-led workshops.



Activities are perfect for Years R to 6. There is free coach parking at the Science Centre and your school will have a dedicated lunch space. Find out more [here](#).

Interested in visiting The South Downs National Park with Your School?

The South Downs National Park have partnered with National Express to provide heavily discounted travel opportunities to over 100 of the [South Downs National Park](#) attractions. With the possibility to secure transport for £295, this opportunity can be used throughout the year and for multiple trips into the South Downs National Park. See [here](#) for more details.



Sustainability Centre - Fair Share Fund

The [Sustainability Centre](#) is an education charity based in 55 acres of the South Downs National Park. They aim to be accessible to all and spread the message of sustainability far and wide. That is why they've launched the Fair Share Fund, dedicated to providing highly subsidised day visits to schools with 30% or more FSM. To find out more, click [here](#).

Arundel Wetland Centre

A visit to [Arundel Wetland Centre](#) is available free of charge to schools with 20%+ pupils eligible for free school meals, as part of [Generation Wild](#). Nestled within the South Downs National Park, with stunning views in every direction, WWT Arundel provides unique opportunities for learners of all ages and abilities to interact with birds and other wildlife from the UK and across the world.





Staying Safe Outdoors This Summer



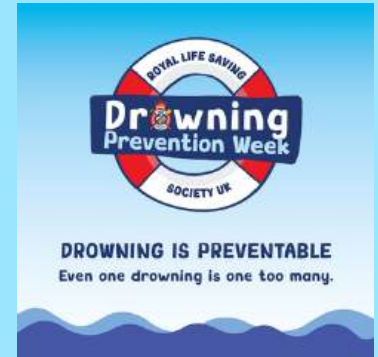
Water Safety

Every year, 300-400 people lose their lives by accidental drowning. It's the third most common cause of death amongst children and young people. As Hampshire has about 230 miles of coastline, as well as many rivers, canals and lakes, it's essential we educate children about water safety.

Drowning Prevention Week 15 - 22 June 2024, aims to equip everybody across the UK with the skills and knowledge to make the right decisions about water safety.

See these great resources:

- [Royal Life Saving Society UK Water Safety Education Resources](#)
- [Water Smart Schools](#)
- [RNLI Water Safety Resources](#)
- [HCC Stay Afloat](#) – Aimed at KS3 pupils



Sun Safety



The Government has updated (March 2024) its guidance for looking after children in schools during hot weather.

Guidance: Looking after children and those in early years settings before and during hot weather: teachers and other educational professionals

Schools must now have an enforceable policy on sun safety.

Sun Safe Schools is a national accreditation programme providing primary schools with free resources to assist them in their duty of care to safeguard children against UV and prevent skin cancer through education as part of the PSHE curriculum.



Outdoor Kids Sun Safety Code - Melanoma Fund UK

The Outdoor Kids Sun Safety Code is a free educational resource for all those who work outdoors with primary aged children. By becoming Sun Protection Accredited you'll find out why sun protection is vital, and how best to implement this into your outdoor sessions.



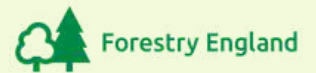
Tick Safety

Lyme disease is predominantly caught from the bite of an infected tick. Lyme Disease UK has created an awareness pack for school, specifically designed for children of various ages. They have also created a checklist that can be used as part of a Lyme disease risk assessment for any school visits.



In the News ...

Ranger in a Bag



Teachers! Are you looking to get your class learning about their local forest? Whether you want to become Trainee Foresters for the day or maybe Ecologists, Woodland Artists or Wellbeing Champions? The choice is yours!

Forestry England's Ranger in a Bag has everything you need for a curriculum linked educational forest visit, including:

- A teacher's pack
- Easy to follow activity sheets
- All the equipment you need

Book your forest visit today at Alice Holt Forest, Farnham, Surrey at learning.south@forestryengland.uk



Get Ready for this Year's Farming Fortnight!

LEAF's (Linking Environment and Farming) Farming Fortnight invites hundreds of schools to take part in a two-week spotlight on farming and food production. During Farming Fortnight you'll have the opportunity to actively involve young people in conversations and activities centred around British farming and food production.



National Festival of Fieldwork - June 2024



The National Festival of Fieldwork (NFF) will take place over June and is an opportunity to take out classes to investigate, observe, discover, challenge, test out ideas and gain a wider understanding of the world around them.

The theme for this year is '**Fieldwork for Everyone**'.

As we all know, organising fieldwork has been a great challenge over the past few years and many learners have not had the chance to experience working out of doors for some time.

Remember, if you are busy during the NFF, you can always choose your own date. The important thing is to go out and do some fieldwork!

See [Trailblazer Beach Studies Fieldwork](#) and [Trailblazer River Studies Fieldwork](#) for ideas.

The Local School Nature Grants Programme 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 and many other benefits.



Key application closing dates:

- Round 2 - Friday 6 September 2024 - Round 3 - Friday 8 November 2024



In the News ...

Geographical Model Making Competition: My Local Area

The Geographical Association is running a new competition for pupils to get involved and explore their creativity and geographical knowledge by creating a 3D model. The closing date for entries is 31 July 2024. Design and make a geographical theme 3D model of a key feature of your local area using reused or waste cardboard as the main material supported with other recycled materials. There are three categories. Two categories for Individual entries: KS2 (Years 3, 4, 5, 6); KS3 (Years 7, 8, 9) and one category for a group entry (any sized group from 2 students or more): KS2 (Years 3, 4, 5, 6)



Books

Yarrow Townsend Author Visits: Assemblies, Writing Workshops & Literacy Outdoors

To celebrate the publication of **A Ship in the Dark**, children's author Yarrow Townsend is offering a limited number of free assemblies for schools in the Southampton area in July 2024.

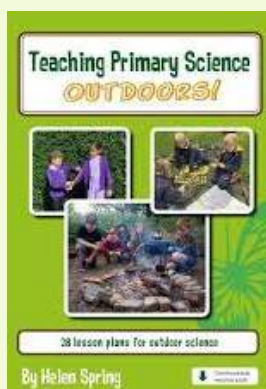
How far do seabirds migrate and why? What stories might they have to tell us? And what's putting them in danger?

This interactive and informative session shares some of Yarrow's adventures on the water, her love of seabirds and how the real science of bird migration inspired **A Ship in the Dark**. Best suited for Year 5 to Year 8, this assembly can be up to 45 minutes long, for any group size.

Yarrow also offers creative writing workshops in your outdoor spaces - combining practical conservation, links to the science curriculum and fun with words - at a reduced price for Hampshire schools.

Yarrow's first novel, **The Map of Leaves** (Chicken House, 2022) was a Sunday Times Children's Book of the Week and was shortlisted for the prestigious Branford Boase Award in 2023.

For more information about the assemblies - along with classroom writing workshops and outdoor learning, please email yarrowtownsendauthor@gmail.com



Teaching Primary Science Outdoors is a book packed full of activities for teaching science in the outdoor environment. The lessons are designed to cover curriculum objectives and include ideas for assessment, as well as support and challenge suggestions. The lessons are suitable for most school grounds and the majority do not require resources that schools wouldn't normally have access to. This book will inspire you to take your class outdoors, and provides some simple ideas for activities, as well as a few more ambitious outdoor science lesson ideas! The book is supported by a comprehensive pdf pack of resources and useful links.



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.



Department
for Education

- Stay up to date by signing up to the DfE's Climate in Education Snapshot. Here is the **April 2024** Edition.
- The National College is offering CPD leading to a **Certificate in Sustainability and Climate Education for Staff**.



National Education
Nature Park and
Climate Action Awards

Sign up now to be part of the **National Education Nature Park** and its free educational resources and webinars.



Climate Unity Virtual Conference 2024

25 September 09.00-12.30



We are pleased to extend an invitation to **you and your KS2 pupils** to attend the Hampshire schools' **virtual** Climate Unity Conference this September. The event will be **county funded** so there will be **no charge** to schools. The morning will provide an opportunity for your pupils to engage in a range of online practical workshops and hear all about the climate change initiatives happening in Hampshire schools.

Schools are invited to log in to the conference from their classrooms and spend the morning undertaking a range of practical activities, facilitated by the workshop providers, which promote awareness and understanding of environmental factors contributing to the climate challenge.

Please sign up via the online booking form: [Virtual Climate Unity Conference 2024](#)





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

- 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

Price from 1st September 2024: £120 SLA (£165 non-SLA) per delegate

- Wed 2 October Testwood Lake Centre, Totton SO40 3XP
- Fri 4 October Newport Church of England (VA) Primary School, Newport, IOW
- Tue 8 October Stubbington Study Centre, Fareham PO14 2ND
- Thu 17 October Gilbert White Field Study Centre, Alton GU34 3JU
- Thu 14 November Woodmill Outdoor Activities Centre, Southampton SO18 2JR
- Wed 4 December Stubbington Study Centre, Fareham PO14 2ND

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 25th & Thurs 26th September 2024 - 13:00-15:30 Microsoft Teams
- Wed 27th & Thurs 28th November 2024 - 15:00-17:30 Microsoft Teams

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

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

£90 SLA (£120 non-SLA) per delegate - 0.5 day refresher course

- Thurs 3rd October 2024 -9:30-12:30 - Microsoft Teams
- Wed 13th November 2024 - Microsoft Teams

Using the Outdoors to Support Your National Curriculum Delivery

£120 SLA (£165 non-SLA) per delegate

- Tues 1 April 2025 - Stubbington Study Centre, Fareham PO14 2ND

ITC Outdoor First Aid - 2 day Course

£135 SLA (£180 non-SLA) per delegate

- Tue 15th & Wed 16th October 2024 - Stubbington Study Centre, Fareham PO14 2ND
- Tue 10th & Wed 11th December 2024 - Stubbington Study Centre, Fareham PO14 7ND



Outdoor First Aid Emergency Action - 1 day course

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

- Fri 21 June 2024 - Minstead Study Centre, SO43 7GJ
- Tues 24 September 2024 - Stubbington Study Centre, Fareham 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!



1 - 30 Jun The **National Festival of Fieldwork** is designed to provide a focal point to encourage you to take your classes outside, whether in the school grounds, the local area or further afield. The theme for 2024 is 'Fieldwork for Everyone'.

For ideas, see:

- [Trailblazer Beach Studies Fieldwork and Follow-Up Activities](#):
- [Trailblazer River Studies Fieldwork and Follow-Up Activities](#)
- [Trailblazer Roadside Air Quality and Nature Survey](#)



1 - 30 June - Thirty Days Wild The Wildlife Trusts' annual nature challenge to do one 'random act of wildness' every day, for 30 days in June.

15 - 22 Jun Drowning Prevention Week aims to equip everybody across the UK with the skills and knowledge, to make the right decisions about water safety.



17 - 21 Jun Scooter Challenge Week to encourage pupils to ride their scooters to school. Hampshire primary schools can sign up to receive resources and competition details by email. Please [register](#) by Wednesday 12 June 2024.

19 Jun Brake's Kids Walk is a great way to engage children with road safety issues, promote the benefits of walking and raise awareness among parents, carers and the wider community about the need to protect children on roads. [Sign up](#) to receive a free action pack of teaching resources.



20 Jun Clean Air Day is a great opportunity to raise awareness about air pollution and make the air that we breathe cleaner and healthier. See:

- [Trailblazer Roadside Air Quality and Nature Survey](#)
- [Trailblazer Planting for Clean Air at Your School](#)

24 - 30 Jun National Insect Week encourages people of all ages to learn more about insects.

- [Trailblazer Mini-beasts Activity Sheet](#)
- Great FREE ID charts of insects to download from [Buzz and Scuttle](#)



29 Jun International Mud Day Celebrating glorious mud!

- [Trailblazer Mud and Soil Activities](#)
- [Muddy Faces Activities](#)



12 Jul - 4 Aug Big Butterfly Count A UK-wide citizen science survey aimed at assessing the health of our environment simply by counting the amount and type of butterflies (and some day-flying moths).

13 - 28 Jul Festival of Archaeology The Council of British Archaeology's annual celebration of archaeology. This year the theme will be *Archaeology and Community*. Use this [guide from Reading Museum](#) to recreate a mini archaeological dig.

