

AUTUMN 1 2023 NEWSLETTER

Welcome back! We hope you have had a restful summer holidays and are ready for a new school year packed with outdoor learning!

In this newsletter, we consider **Food and Farming**.

A 2014 British Nutrition Foundation Survey of school children revealed great confusion around where food comes from.

For example, it found:

- A quarter (25%) of 5–8-year-olds think bread comes from animals
- Over a quarter (26%) of 5–8-year-olds and 22% of 8–11-year-olds think cheese comes from plants

So clearly visits to farms, where children can see first hand their food being produced and experience curriculum-linked activities which inspire them about food, farming and the countryside are so important.

Jo Hatton, from LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming) writes how you can bring the magic of food and farming to life.

If you are considering growing food on your school grounds, the RHS Campaign for School Gardening has lots of resources and lesson plans to support you. There are plans to revamp the criteria for the RHS School Gardening Awards which will be announced in September.

Other ideas you could consider is making a pizza garden and growing your own toppings in pizza shape bed!



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Bringing the Magic of Food and Farming to Life

Linking Environment and Farming (LEAF) are leading the drive towards sustainable food production, supporting farmers and food producers across the world, as they strive to produce enough food to feed a growing population and ensure the natural environment they rely upon has a sustainable future. As such, the Education Team at LEAF are best placed to support schools as they teach their pupils about the importance of managing climate change and their role in ensuring the future of both food production and the countryside. The Government's recent announcements regarding their DfE Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy, and the launch of National Education Nature Parks, mean that there is no better time for the next generation of decision makers to understand their role in our planet's future.

Much of the work of LEAF Education is out on farm, training and supporting farmers to host safe, educational and inspiring visits, with specific curriculum links to engage students in great quality experiential learning.



For more information on farmer hosts near you visit the interactive map on www.countrysideclassroom.org.uk and look out for those farmers displaying their CEVAS (Countryside Education Visit Accreditation Scheme) badge.



There are so many other ways to get involved, such as...

All for Farm and Food for All



A national competition suitable for Year 5 pupils (both mainstream and SEN), designed to equip our future generations with a balanced and informed insight into where their food comes from, how it is produced, and the impact this has on the natural environment around them. All for Farm and Food for All offers teachers support and access to specific resources to help deliver high-quality learning activities and experiences that open young minds to why farming matters.

Schools entering the competition will receive access to a handbook and activity pack, whilst getting the chance to represent their region as the Regional Finalist of the competition, win an in-school workshop for one class, a farm visit for one class and be named the 'All for Farm and Food for All National Winner 2024' as well as a farm visit for up to 200 people from their school.

Entries close on **15 September 2023**, so **register your school here** before you miss out.

Farming Fortnight (3 - 14 June 2024).

The annual event of Farming Fortnight provides an exciting and inspiring platform to educate and connect children with where their food comes from. Helping them to make more informed food choices, and lead healthy, active lifestyles, – all while capturing their enthusiasm to connect with topical issues around climate change, sustainable diets, well-being and showcasing the range of future career opportunities available in the agricultural sector.



Bringing the Magic of Food and Farming to Life (continued)

Farming Fortnight (3 - 14 June 2024) (continued).



Each day has a different theme, with a memorable social media hashtag to encourage schools and students to share their learning experiences. Last year's resources are available to download at any time of the year, my favourite was #Milking Monday. Put it in your diary for next year!

Why Farming Matters

Of the many hundreds of free downloadable resources available on www.countrysideclassroom.org.uk this is always the Teachers Pick. Following a recent update and relaunch there are still some rare hard copies available to order. Help your pupils to understand that farming is 'the biggest job on earth' using these curriculum-linked activities to encourage pupils to start investigating why farming matters.



For more information on the work of LEAF Education visit our [website](#) and sign up to our newsletter.

Jo Hatton

South East Regional Education Consultant | LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming)



Planning a Farm Visit

Further useful documents if you are planning a visit with your class to a farm are:

[HSE Agriculture: Children and public safety.](#)

[Code of Practice Access To Farms](#)

[OEAP National Guidance 7g-Farm-Visits](#)

Writing an Establishment Policy for Outdoor Learning, Off-Site Visits and Learning Outside the Classroom

Every establishment should have a policy setting out its expectations of how outdoor learning, off site visits and learning outside the classroom will be managed. You may have separate policies for some activities e.g. Forest School, DofE which can be referred to. As we start a new academic year, do make sure your policies are up to date.

Guidance on writing an Establishment Policy for Outdoor Learning, Off-Site Visits and Learning Outside the Classroom can be found on the Outdoor Education Advisors Panel (OEAP) [website](#). Do call us on 01962-876218 or email outdoor.education@hants.gov.uk if you need any assistance with this.



A New Year of Outdoor Learning!



Maybe this is the year that outdoor learning becomes more prevalent in your school and you use it to deliver the curriculum.

If you are taking your first steps into outdoor learning, start small to build your confidence and that of your learners. It doesn't have to be an entire lesson outdoors. Start with small steps, for example 15 mins and then build up. There are lots of resources on the [Trailblazer](#) website to support you in taking your teaching and learning outdoors. Just search by key stage and curriculum subject.

We are often asked by schools considering outdoor learning, whether they should go down the curriculum outdoor learning route or Forest Schools. Both have a place depending on what your aims and objectives (and possibly budget) are.

To help you in your decision making, we have produced a guide to [Outdoor Learning or Forest School at Your School](#),

On Evolve under the Pink Resources tab / Outdoor Learning, we also have a useful document Outdoor Learning or Forest School - What needs to go on Evolve. If you need any further information and advice, please drop us a line at outdoor.education@hants.gov.uk.



Other guidance and documents that have recently been updated are:

[Beach Activities](#) - Lots of activities for exploring the beach for children of all ages.



[Beach Studies Fieldwork and Follow Up Activities](#) - Advice and techniques for planning and conducting coastal fieldwork with follow up activities.

[Calendar of Themes and Days for Outdoor Learning 2023/24](#) - Themes and days to link to outdoor learning and being active.

[Fire Lighting and Cooking](#) - Advice on campfires and recipes for cooking.



[River Studies Fieldwork](#) - Advice and techniques for planning and conducting river fieldwork with follow up activities.



Free Resources ...

Kew Gardens and Endeavour

Endeavour is the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew's interactive library of teaching resources all about plant science and the environment.

Designed by experts and teachers at Kew, Endeavour's FREE teaching resources are tailored for pupils in EYFS through to Key Stage 5.

It provides teachers with the tools they need to lead inspiring lessons including lesson guides, infographics, quizzes and video clips of our experts at work. Once pupils have delved into a topic, they are inspired to tackle challenges such as creating a guidebook on trees in their local area or investigating the role of photosynthetic pigments in leaves.

Register here for free to gain access to all the Endeavour resources.



Free Identification Guides

There are some great identification guides available from Buzz and Scuttle. Free to use and print off for educational purposes - choose from a mini-beast guide, British Pollinator, Beetles and Bugs of Britain and lots of others.

Seed Parade Seed Give Away

Apply for Seed Parade's Free Seeds for Schools 2023 giveaway. All you need to do is email to freeseeds@seedparade.co.uk with the address of your school

and they will send a variety of seeds to the school address. They will send you some quick and easy to grow crops, for example radish cherry belle seeds and some fast leaf vegetables, which can be harvested in a month from sowing like the oriental salad seeds which can be cut in as little as 30 days. They will try to include some lettuce and the ever popular giant sunflower and many more.



Free Trees

Wanting to increase the number of trees on your school grounds?

I Dig Trees is now LIVE and taking orders for the 2023-24 tree planting season ahead! Order your free trees from The Conservation Volunteers today and get planting. Tackle climate change with carbon-busting trees, create pocket forests for wildlife, and green up your school grounds for generations to enjoy.



Free Resources ...



Sustainability Contexts for Primary Science

The Royal Society of Chemistry have designed free resources to help you link your existing curriculum teaching to sustainability issues. Each sustainability web is designed to give you a quick overview of how sustainability contexts can be linked with the science topic and to suggest specific activities you can do with your class. It doesn't provide detailed lesson plans. Find out more [here](#).



Learning through Landscapes Local School Nature Grants Programme

The [Local School Nature Grants](#) programme, supported by The People's Lottery is still available! With a Local School Nature Grant, you could get your hands on £500 worth of outdoor equipment chosen from a catalogue of over 100 items.

Discover [here](#) top tips on how to write a winning grant application.

4th round: Apply by **10th November 2023** with results by 24th November 2023.

Exploring Urban Nature – Free Resources for Schools

The Natural History Museum has produced a variety of articles, videos and downloadable resources that can help support the teaching of curriculum-linked topics around the theme of urban nature.

The activities are designed to inspire young people to better understand urban biodiversity and the issues affecting their local environment. They have been created as part of the [Explore: Urban Nature programme](#). The resources are suited for students aged to 9-14 and are linked to KS2 and KS3 of the English National Curriculum.



Free CPD

Free Outdoor Learning Webinars

Although American, you might find [these free webinars](#) from the [Outdoor Learning Store](#) useful.

Or [these recordings](#) from previous webinars.



FREE! TUESDAYS 60 mins Sept - Nov

Outdoor Learning Fall Virtual Workshop Series!

September 19 Naturally Inclusive: Engaging Children of All Abilities Outdoors	October 17 Connecting Children to Nature through Indigenous Teachings
September 26 Wild Learning: Practical Ideas to Bring Teaching Outdoors	November 7 L'éducation en plein air: Apprendre et enseigner dehors en tous lieux et en toutes saisons
October 3 Outdoor Learning through Patterns in Nature	November 14 BE OUT - A New Outdoor Learning Tool for Teacher Success

THE OUTDOOR LEARNING STORE
TAKE ME OUTSIDE
OUTDOORLEARNINGSTORE.COM

1000 Hours Outside Podcasts



[1000 Hours Outside](#) is another American organisation who attempt to match nature time with screen time. They believe if the average American child spends 1,200 hours a year in front of screens, then the time is there and at least some of it can and should be shifted towards a more productive and healthy outcome! Whilst they have many resources that you can purchase from their website, the [1000 Hours Outdoor Podcasts](#) are free and through their various speakers and authors, they cover many interesting subjects on outdoor learning.



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.



In the News ...

DfE Climate Education

Stay up to date with what the DfE are working on in regard to climate education with the DfE's Climate in Education Snapshot.

All schools, colleges, and nurseries are being invited to register their interest in an online 'National Education Nature Park' programme, which will be launched in Autumn 2023 and enable pupils to learn from peers in other schools, colleges and nurseries about the steps they are taking to improve biodiversity.

The Natural History Museum is designing a new Climate Action Award to recognise schools that support pupils to develop green skills and develop climate change projects.



KEYNOTES / WORKSHOPS / NETWORKING / Q&A

HAMPSHIRE OUTDOORS

OUTDOOR LEARNING CONFERENCE

"GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY"

FRIDAY 6TH OCTOBER 2023
SIR HAROLD HILLIERS GARDEN

BOOK YOUR SPACE HERE

🕒 9AM - 3:15PM
💷 FROM £100



Hampshire County Council

www.hants.gov.uk/hampshireoutdoors

Places are limited and filling up fast so hurry and **book now!**





UPCOMING COURSES



**Hampshire
Outdoors**

Participation & Lifelong Learning

Hampshire Outdoors offer a wide range of courses covering Outdoor Learning, on and off the school grounds (including Trailblazer); Risk Management; Physical Education; Duke of Edinburgh Award 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 and can be held on-site at a convenient time for you. If you would like to book a bespoke course please complete [this form](#).

Outdoor and Visit Leader Course (valid for 5 years)

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

Wed 20 September - Stubbington Study Centre, PO14 2ND

Thu 21 September - Testwood Lakes Centre, Totton, SO40 3XP

Fri 29 September - Dover Park Primary School, Isle of Wight

Wed 11 October - Gilbert White Study Centre, Selborne, GU34 3JU

Wed 18 October - Nature Discovery Centre, Thatcham, RG19 3FU

Thu 2 November - Runways End Outdoor Centre, Aldershot, GU11 2RE

Wed 8 November - Woodmill Outdoor Centre, Southampton, SO18 2JR

Wed 22 November - Testwood Lakes Centre, Totton, SO40 3XP

Thu 30 November - Stubbington Study Centre, PO14 2ND

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

Wed 27 & Thurs 28 September - 13:00-15:30 - Virtual via Teams

Wed 15 & Thurs 16 November - 15:00-17:30 - Virtual via Teams

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

Educational Visits Coordinator 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

Thu 19 October 2023 - 9:30-12:30 - Virtual via Teams

Thu 22 November 2023 - 13:00-16:00 - Virtual via Teams

Thu 29 February 2024 - 9:30-12:30 - Virtual via Teams

Wed 22 May 2024 - 13:00-16:00 - Virtual via Teams

ITC Outdoor First Aid (valid for 5 years)

Wed 4 & Thurs 5 October 2023 - Stubbington Study Centre, PO14 2ND

£135 SLA (£180 non-SLA) per delegate - 2 day course.

Emergency Paediatric First Aid

Fri 15 September 2023 - Newport CE Primary School, Isle of Wight

Fri 3 November 2023 - Minstead Study Centre, SO43 7GJ

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



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



Physical Education - Hampshire PE

WE OFFER WHOLE SCHOOL TRAINING IN

GYMNASTICS | DANCE
FUNDAMENTAL MOVEMENT SKILLS
1:1 SUPPORT FOR PE SUBJECT LEADERS
LUNCHTIME SUPERVISORS
LUNCHTIME LEADERS
1ST4SPORT MULTISKILLS QUALIFICATION

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

PEANDSPORT@HANTS.GOV.UK



FOR MORE INFORMATION



DANCE

Increase confidence with planning and teaching of dance linked to themes identified with the school. Examples with music provided.

"Just wanted to say a huge thank you for our training - everyone loved it! Just what we needed after Ofsted!" (Elvetham Heath Primary School)

GYMNASTICS

Increase teacher confidence in teaching curriculum gymnastics as well as enabling them to teach forward rolls, handstands and cartwheels where appropriate.

"Very friendly and helpful. Was able to answer any questions and offered support if needed after the session" (Bedenham Primary School)

FUNDAMENTAL MOVEMENT SKILLS

(including sports specific teaching where appropriate)

Essential knowledge for all primary teachers - needed for all children in order to establish and maintain physically active lives according to the Ofsted Research Review (2022).

LUNCHTIME SUPERVISORS

Ideas for lunchtime supervisors for getting children active at break and lunchtimes with resources provided.

"Lots of new ideas, really informative, very professional" (Winklebury Infants)

LUNCHTIME LEADERS

For Year 5 and 6 children running activities to get children physically active at break and lunchtimes with resources provided.

"Course was really informative, a great tutor who was knowledgeable, passionate and clear"

1:1 SUPPORT FOR PE SUBJECT LEADERS

Reviewing curriculum intent, planning (including skills progressions) and assessment in PE.

1ST4SPORT MULTISKILLS QUALIFICATION

For coaches, LSAs and HLTAs teaching PE in schools.

Dates for Your Diary

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!

15 - 24 Sep - The Great British Beach Clean is a week-long citizen science event run by the Marine Conservation Society. See how your school can take part.



23 Sep - 23 Oct - Seed Gathering Season Gather seeds, fruits and nuts to grow local trees. Why not go on a [seed safari](#)?

25 - 29 Sep - Cycle to School Week Run by the Bikeability Trust, this is to encourage people up and down the country to use pedal power to get to school.



1 - 31 - Oct Walktober An HCC challenge held each October to celebrate walking to school as part of [International Walk to School Month](#).

5 Oct - National Poetry Day The theme for National Poetry Day 2023 is 'Refuge'. Why not read, write and share poems outside? See our [Trailblazer Poetry Outdoors](#) activity sheet for other ideas.



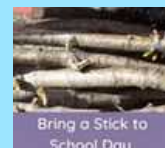
6 Oct - National Badger Day Check out the [Badger Trust website](#) to watch new short films about badgers, learn how to be a badger champion and how to get involved.



8 Oct - UK Fungus Day Life on Earth would not exist without fungi! Print out a [UK Fungus Day Detectives' challenge sheet](#). How many fungi can you spot in the woods and around your school grounds?



14 Oct - Bring a Stick to School Day Schools all over the world take to the outside and use the simple idea of a stick to have fun, imagine and connect with nature.



14 Oct - Forest School Day An annual celebration day to connect, share and celebrate everything that is great and wonderful about forest school.



21 Oct - World Earthworm Day The 21 October was chosen as World Earthworm Day because naturalist Charles Darwin published his book 'The Formation of Vegetable Mould through the Action of Worms, with Observations on their Habits' (snappy title eh?) on this day in 1881.



24 - 31 Oct - Bat Week This is an annual, international celebration of the role of bats in nature. Play the [Trailblazer Bat and Moth Game](#) to understand how bats locate their prey.



25 - 31 Oct - National Mammal Week A celebration and awareness week of mammals and their conservation in Great Britain. Make a [mammal trap](#) to see what mammals visit your school grounds.



31 Oct - Halloween How about using twigs to [create your very own skeleton](#)? This can help children learn the names of the bones and is great fun to create! Encourage your children write spooky stories. Why not take them outside to share them around a campfire?