

AUTUMN 1 2024 NEWSLETTER

Welcome back to a new term and new academic year!

There is a hint of season change in the air and as the leaves begin to change, in this edition we are looking at **Colours Outdoors**.

Some of the simplest exploring colours in nature activities can be scavenger hunts either matching colours or tones and shades of a particular colour. Paint colour charts from DIY stores can be useful for this. If you attach a line of double sided sticky tape down one side, it makes it easier for children stick tiny bits of each colour to the palette. Or you could use egg boxes to collect items of different colour.



(See [Trailblazer Exploring Activities](#) for egg box templates and other activities).

By using close observation, the children will be able to find a surprising amount of colour – even in unpromising locations or at dowdy times of year. Encourage them to look at the edges of things, under things and round the back. You can have useful conversations about natural and unnatural objects, and about limiting damage to plants by collecting only tiny bits. Repeat the process regularly over the course of the year. How do the colours change through the months and seasons?

Can the children make a rainbow from the natural things collected?



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Colours Outdoors

Colourful Leaf Mandalas

Learn and practice symmetry by collecting colourful leaves and making leaf mandalas. The word mandala is a Sanskrit term that means “circle” and in fact a mandala is a circular structure with a design that radiates out symmetrically from a unifying centre. Autumn is a great time to use nature’s palette and create some Mandalas. See [Trailblazer Leaf Activities](#).



Hapa Zome

Hapa Zome is the Japanese art of beating up leaves with hammers, pounding natural pigment into cloth. The name means ‘leaf dye’. It is a great activity to do at this time of year when there are colourful leaves and berries around to release their colours. Instructions to make bunting or Hapa Zome butterflies can be found in [Trailblazer Hapa Zome Activities](#).



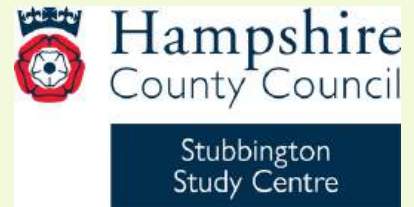
Natural Paints

This is also a great time of year to create natural dyes and paints. Get children to collect a variety of natural things such as berries, (e.g. elderberries, blackberries, rowan berries, sloes, etc), flowers (e.g. dandelions, buttercups, rose petals, etc), fruit, charcoal, different coloured clays and soils, grass and leaves, etc. (Make dyes only from berries of non-poisonous plants. Use a field guide to identify plants you don’t know. Make sure the children wash their hands thoroughly when they’ve finished.)

Place one raw material at a time in a mortar and grind with the pestle, adding water to achieve the desired consistency. Ask the children whether the extracted colour is what they were expecting! For a smooth paint, pass the mixture through a tea strainer or sieve. You could add a small amount of flour to help thicken the paint up a bit, if it is on the runny side. You can also make natural paint brushes by tying pine needles, small fir branches, or dried grasses onto small sticks. Use the paint to decorate leaves, bark or tree trunks or to mark a trail. Link it to your Stone Age or Celts topic. See [Trailblazer Stone Age Activities](#).



Creative with Colour at Stubbington Study Centre



On our site, we are fortunate enough to be surrounded by a plethora of colours and textures. Using the grounds around us, we have several activities that allow the children to be creative and produce natural art.

Before many of our art activities, we start by having the children create a “nature’s palette”. The children are given a piece of card with a palette template and two strips of double sided tape. The first piece of tape will be filled with as many different colours as they can find in the natural materials around them. After a short discussion, the children notice that colours like green are the easiest to find. We will then use the second strip to find as many different shades of green as possible. This activity helps the children to explore the colours and textures at their disposal. We then have a range of activities we can use to follow up this activity. We have looked at creating our own Andy Goldsworthy style pieces, and more recently have looked at drawing inspiration from Carl Warner’s “Foodscapes” to create our own ‘Naturescapes’. We also are able to use a range of media such as paints, pastels and clay to create pieces such as leaf mandalas and tree guardians. The possibilities for being creative in the outdoors are vast and varied making it a great place to practice art.



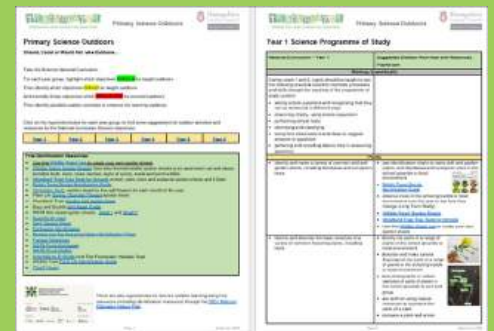
If you are interested in a residential visit to Stubbington Study Centre, we have limited available slots for autumn term 2024-25.

Alternatively, contact us to find out more about booking a day visit for £11 per child on a Thursday or Friday during 2024-25. [Stubbington Study Centre](#)

Please contact the centre on 01329 662244 or email stubbington.sc@hants.gov.uk for more information.

Primary Science Outdoors

Science is often a good starting point to get outdoors, as so much of the curriculum can be taught outdoors. We have recently launched a **new Trailblazer Primary Science Outdoor Guide** which looks at covering the primary science curriculum outdoors, by year group and National Curriculum objectives. It has lots of ideas and suggestions.



In the News ...

Hampshire Outdoors' 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
QR code
Hampshire Outdoors SLA: £100
Non SLA: £150
Hampshire County Council
www.hants.gov.uk

Outdoor Learning Networking Opportunities

The Hampshire Outdoor Learning Group's next meeting will be at **Hiltingbury Junior School** in Eastleigh, SO53 5NP on **3rd October** at 3.30/4pm to finish by 6pm. If you are planning on attending please can you let Zoe Loosemore know by emailing adminoffice@hiltingbury-jun.hants.sch.uk



Outdoor Learning Collaboration #2

Friday 27 September 2024, 9-3pm

Droxford Junior School is offering the opportunity for schools to learn/share creative outdoor learning, through a skill-share workshop event, with a focus on Sustainability and Climate Change. Guest speakers include Deborah Lambert (Bloomsbury's National Curriculum Outdoors)

Cost: £85 per delegate. Contact: adminoffice@droxford.hants.sch.uk



Early-bird Registration for Big Schools' Birdwatch

Register now for [Big Schools' Birdwatch](#) (7 Jan - 14 Feb 2025), the RSPB's annual UK-wide citizen science project that gives students a meaningful outdoor learning opportunity. Once registered, you will be directed to the downloadable digital resources that will enable your class to participate.



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 'latest' **April 2024** Edition.

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



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

Next steps for Climate Change and Sustainability Education in England Friday, 27 Sept 2024

[Register here](#) for this Westminster Education Forum online conference.

This one day online conference will focus on key issues, progress and next steps for provision of climate change and sustainability education in England, and for supporting schools to become greener and more climate resilient.

It is bringing together key stakeholders and policymakers to examine rollout of the DfE's climate change strategy, including its target for all education settings in England to have nominated a sustainability lead and put in place a Climate Action Plans by 2025.

Climate Unity Virtual Conference 2024
25 September 09.00-12.30

CLIMATE UNITY PROJECT One world for us all

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](#)



Grants and Funding ...

In these tough financial times, we are often asked for sources of funding to support schools with outdoor learning. Below are some that we have found that are still accepting applications. In some cases, you may need to be a registered charity to qualify. Do share your outdoor learning projects if you are successful!



The Alpkit Foundation makes small awards to people, groups and schools that work to remove the barriers in getting outdoors and experience wild places.



Asda Foundation Under 18 Better Starts Grant - This grant is for groups who are supporting people under the age of 18.

Asda Rewards Cashpot for Schools - If you sign up for Asda Rewards, Asda will donate a percentage to your nominated school.



The **B & Q Foundation** provides grants up to £5k for a wide range of charities who are looking for funding to improve or develop spaces, both indoor and outdoor, that benefit their local communities.



The **Barker Mills Foundation** supports schools and charities primarily in South West Hampshire and gives priority to those in the more deprived local areas specifically Nursling, Rownhams, Redbridge, Millbrook and Totton.

The **BlueSpark Foundation** is a charity which supports the education and development of children and young people by providing grants for educational, cultural, sporting and other projects.



The **Ford Britain Trust** supports projects focusing on education, environment, children, the disabled, youth activities close to their UK locations.

The Local School Nature Grants

Through this grant you could get your hands on £500 worth of outdoor learning products and many other benefits. **Closing date:** Round 3 - Friday 8 November 2024



The Morrisons Foundation supports registered charities making a positive difference in local communities.



The National Lottery Community Fund

Schools can apply for funding between £300 and £10,000 as long as the project benefits and involves the communities around the school.



Tesco Stronger Starts Grants is open to all schools, registered charities and not-for-profit organisations, with priority given to projects that provide food and support to young people.



Wooden Spoon Grants

Wooden Spoon, the children's charity of rugby, funds projects that support disadvantaged, disengaged and disabled children.



Free or Subsidised School Visits...

New Forest National Park Travel Grant

The New Forest Travel Grant scheme supports learning outside the classroom for schools in the New Forest and surrounding area. Schools that are either based within the New Forest National Park or within a 20-mile journey of Lyndhurst can claim up to £250 towards the cost of transport to any venue that is a member of the New Forest National Park Educators' Forum.



Contact Helen Robinson education@newforestnpa.gov.uk for more information.

Discover the Downs - Fully-Funded visits to the South Downs National Park

Schools from across Hampshire and Sussex – with over 30 per cent of their pupils eligible for pupil premium funding – are now being invited to apply for fully-funded visits to the South Downs National Park.



Activities might include "Discovery Days" to develop a connection with nature, including learning about conservation, bushcraft, wild art and natural sciences, all within the breath-taking surrounds of the National Park. Alternatively, schools might choose to explore star gazing opportunities, learn about nocturnal wildlife and explore mindful activities all within the South Downs, one of only 22 International Dark Sky Reserves. Finally, you might choose to join one of our partner organisations participating in a funded residential at the **Sustainability Centre** or a farm day visit with **Goodwood Education Trust**.



Visit the [South Downs NPA website](#) to find out more or express your interest in participating [here](#).

Subsidised travel to the South Downs National Park - available all year!

Schools and colleges, with over 10 per cent of their pupils eligible for free school meals, can apply for discounted transport via our partnership with National Express. Coaches are offered for as little as £295 if schools/colleges are able to travel between 9am-3pm to locations within the South Downs National Park. This is available throughout the year and may be used multiple times. More information can be found [here](#).



Half Price workshops at **Gilbert White's Field Studies Centre** this winter!

Gilbert White's Field Studies Centre have a special offer for schools who haven't previously visited their venue, of a half price whole day school visit at £150 for up to 30 children and £300 for 60! The offer applies to school visits booked for December and January. The centre offers an exciting Antarctic Explorers workshop looking at what conditions were like for explorers like Scott and Shackleton, as well as a range of other workshops with a choice of indoor and outdoor activities.



Free CPD

Free webinar: Enhance STEM Skills Through Forest School Activities

Outdoor learning expert Marina Robb will show you how Forest School Activities align with the STEM subjects, curriculum and support Special Educational Needs, including climate education components.

Choose the time and date that suits you:

- Sunday 22nd September: 10.00am and 7.00pm
- Monday 23rd September: 10.00am, 4.30pm and 7.00pm



[Register for free here.](#)



The Forest School Podcast

Delicious waffle chat about education, nature connection, child development & community building. Hosted by Lewis Ames & Wem Southerden.



The Wild Minds Podcasts

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

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 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:

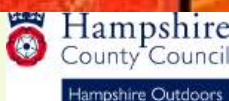
- How to Teach Nature Journaling: Curiosity, Wonder, Attention
- Climate Connections: Climate Change Education in Outdoor Learning

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.





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) £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 27th & Thurs 28th November 2024 - 15:00-17:30 Microsoft Teams
- Wed 27th & Thurs 28th November 2024 - 15:00-17:30 Microsoft Teams
- Wed 12th & Thurs 13th February 2025 - 13:00-15:30 Microsoft Teams

Wed 26th & Thurs 27th March 2025 - 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
- Thurs 6th February 2025 - Microsoft Teams
- Wed 14th May 2025 - 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
- Tue 10th & Wed 11th December 2024 - Stubbington Study Centre, Fareham PO14 7ND
- Sat 15th & Sun 16th March 2025 - Minstead Study Centre, Minstead SO43 7GJ

Outdoor First Aid Emergency Action - 1 day course

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

- Tues 24 September 2024 - Stubbington Study Centre, Fareham PO14 2ND
- Friday 31 January 2025 - Minstead Study Centre, Minstead SO43 7GJ
- Saturday 7 June 2025 - 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 2024/25, so you can see what's coming up and plan accordingly!



23 Sep - 23 Oct Seed Gathering Season

Gather seeds, fruits and nuts to grow local trees. Why not go on a [seed safari](#)?



23 - 27 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.

Bikeability in Hampshire



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 2024 is *Counting*. Why not read, write and share poems outside? See our [Trailblazer Poetry Outdoors](#) activity sheet for ideas.

5 Oct UK Fungus Day

Print out a [UK Fungus Day Detectives' Challenge Sheet](#). How many fungi can you spot in the woods and around your school grounds?

Great children's resources from the [British Mycological Society](#).



14 Oct National Forest School Day

An annual celebration day to celebrate everything that about Forest School.

14 Oct Bring a Stick to School Day

Use the simple idea of a stick to have fun, imagine and connect with nature.

Plenty of ideas in the [The Stick Book: Loads of things you can make or do with a stick](#).



21 Oct World Earthworm Day

Explore the soil quality and earthworms in your local area using this [Earthworm identification guide](#).

24 - 31 Oct Bat Week

Play the [Trailblazer Bat and Moth Game](#) to understand how bats locate their prey.

[Build a bat box](#) and give a bat a safe place to roost on your school grounds.



7 Nov Outdoor Classroom Day This is a global movement to make time outdoors part of every child's day. A great day for the whole school to take children outdoors to learn and play.

11-17 Nov Maths Week England A week-long celebration of all things maths!

There are lots of outdoor maths activities on the [Trailblazer website](#):

[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](#)



17-23 Nov Road Safety Week

This is an annual event dedicated to promoting road safety awareness and advocating for safer roads and responsible driving behaviour. This year's theme is *After the Crash*. [Hampshire Road Safety for Primary Schools](#)