



School visits to the Ashdown Forest – KS1

Choose a from the sessions below or let us know what learning or experience you would like to your pupils to gain and we can put together a bespoke day for you. All our sessions are interactive, involve some walking across the Forest and promote curiosity and care for the natural world.

Sessions run from 10am to 2.30pm and are based at the Ashdown Forest Centre.

- **Animals and their homes**

We will use games and activities to find out who lives on the Forest, what they eat, where they hide and what secret signs they leave behind. Develop your animal senses to read the signs, follow some animal tracks and trails and have a go at making your own. Go minibeast hunting in the woods or catch minibeasts in the grassland with sweep nets.

Curriculum links: Science (plants and animals), Geography (local area)

- **Outdoor maths**

We will find all sorts of ways to explore and use number. Estimating and measuring the age of the trees, collecting data such as the number of minibeasts and showing these as tallies or bar graphs, searching for shapes, share our winter stores with the squirrels, travel though the woods with a set of directions and measure all sorts of things we find on our journey. No paper just seasonal fun with a focus on maths.

Curriculum links: Maths

- **Plants of the Ashdown Forest**

What plants make the heathland of the Ashdown Forest so special and how do they survive the difficult conditions of this rare environment? Learn the bee dance, pollinate the flowers and find out why plants need bees. Compare the plants of the heathland to the woodland. Play games to help identify trees and tree parts. Get a bird's eye view of the trees with a mirror walk.

Curriculum links: Science (plants and animals), Geography (local area)

- **Poetry**

Taking inspiration from the wonderful poems of AA Milne we will explore the Ashdown Forest as stimuli for our own writing. Use our senses to explore what's around us and create your own poems during the day.

Curriculum links: English (comprehension, vocabulary, discussion)

- **Seasonal explorer**

Explore the Forest with sensory games and activities to find out what is happening in the season of your visit. Autumn: seeds and berries, autumn art, getting ready for winter. Winter: survival, identifying winter twigs, watching ways water moves through the landscape. Spring: tap the birch tree, look for signs of spring and new life. Summer: pollination and flower power - a great time to identify plants and find out more about who lives on, under and in them.

Curriculum links: Science (Seasonal change, plants, animals and materials), Geography (local area, vocabulary)

- **Traditional stories – Little Red Riding Hood**

Once we have heard a retelling of the traditional tale we will spend the day exploring this story. Play hiding and seeking games with the wolf, build huts in the woods and could even make some cakes to take for grandma. Children will get to know the story so well that they will be able to tell their own versions at the end of the day.

Curriculum links: English (comprehension, vocabulary building, discussion, listening to and retelling stories)

- **Winnie the Pooh**

Immerse your class in the landscape setting for AA Milne famous bear stories. Find out about the plants and animals that were part of Pooh's adventures. Discover the Lone Pine, the Sandy Place where Roo loved to play and search for some of Pooh's well known places. Follow the stories and play Pooh's favourite games, build a home for Eeyore, find Eeyore a new tail or search for a new tree house for Owl.

Curriculum links: English (language development, story settings), Science (plants and animals), Geography (local area and maps), Design and Technology (materials and their uses, construction)



- **Outreach sessions**

Use a free outreach session before or after your visit to consolidate learning or to enrich topic work. These sessions can be a whole day for one class, shorter session for several classes or a general introduction to the whole school for example through an assembly. Topics for outreach sessions can support any of the above sessions and are free of charge to schools within 15 miles of the Ashdown Forest.