

AUTUMN 2 2022 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the Autumn 2 edition of our outdoor learning newsletter. There is a definite change of seasons in the air and with darker evenings too. In this edition we are looking at **Mammals** as both Bat Week and National Mammal Week happened at the end of October.



A great game to play with your class is the bat and moth game to help children understand how bats use echo-location to locate their prey in the dark. Bat calls are usually pitched at too high a frequency for humans to

hear naturally but they can be heard or recorded using different types of bat detectors. This website provides a handy guide if you are interested in buying bat detectors.

Schools can be important historical roost sites for bats. Your building can act as a safe place for bats to roost at a time where many of their natural roost sites have disappeared. Your building may have supported the bat roost for many years, as bats are faithful to their roosts, returning each year to raise their one pup.



So why not make and put up bat boxes in your school grounds to provide bats with somewhere safe to roost, raise their pups and sleep during the day?

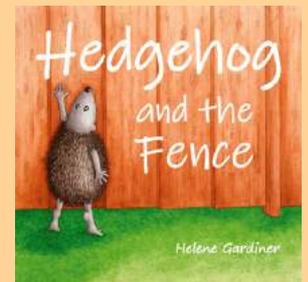


Hedgehogs are another mammal that you might want to attract to your school grounds. Hedgehog Friendly Campus is a British Hedgehog Preservation Society - funded award programme, offering free support to schools and colleges to make impactful changes for hedgehogs. If your school is interested in becoming a Hedgehog Friendly School, contact Jo at info@hedgehogfriendlycampus.co.uk to get involved.

Build and provide hedgehog houses and you're much more likely to see these prickly creatures in your school grounds.

The Hedgehog and the Fence by Helen Gardiner is a new children's book.

Beautifully illustrated to engage children, it has lots of useful hedgehog tips to make gardens more hedgehog friendly. The British Hedgehog Preservation Society receives a donation from every book sold, to support their work in securing the future survival of British hedgehogs.





Whose Poo?!

Have you spotted some mammal poo on your school grounds?! The Wildlife Trusts show some common British mammal droppings you might come across, as well as some tips on what to look - or smell - for! Why not log the poo in the FREE Mammal Mapper app. Simply take a photo, find the mammal you think it belongs to, click "Droppings" and then location and upload.



Outdoor Learning at Oliver's Battery Primary and Nursery School

At Oliver's Battery Primary and Nursery School, we are continuing to develop and embrace the opportunities for outdoor learning and engagement that our school site gives us. We have recently benefited from a refurbishment of our pond and children are already enjoying the benefits of hands on science, through pond dipping.

We have designed our curriculum with outdoor learning in mind, it is a thread that runs through the heart of our curriculum from Nursery to Year 6. Our teachers plan opportunities where knowledge and skills are taught using the outdoor environment. An example of this is, our Year 4 children grew beetroot in the Edible Playground to use for dying as part of their Art and DT. Our Science curriculum is heavily linked to the outdoors with longitudinal studies based on how trees change during the seasons, mini beasts across the year, rainfall and next year our Year 6s will be looking at how our pond changes throughout the year.

In wooded areas of the school, children at Oliver's Battery have the opportunity to take part in Forest School sessions led by trained Forest School Practitioners. At each session, a number of activities are on offer and children are free to choose what they would like to do such as: den making, fire lighting, camp fire cooking, using tools, climbing and low ropes activities. They can choose to either work alone developing independence or in groups learning valuable team building and social skills. We believe that Forest School sessions enable us to meet the holistic needs of our children and, through this, they develop into independent, enthusiastic and creative learners who are the best they can be.

Forest school is part of our wider commitment to the development of outdoor learning. All of the staff has received training and are working towards the schools vision of a fully embedded outdoor curriculum.

Carly Redfern, Headteacher



News From Our HCC Study Centres!

Minstead Study Centre

We've been really enjoying finding out what lives in our semi-ancient woodland at Minstead Study Centre. We've used camera and Longworth traps with some of our school groups to see what comes out at night! We regularly see a fox, muntjac deer as well as yellow necked mice, bank voles and wood mice. We've also seen a badger! The semi ancient woodland is an important habitat for these animals as it provides food, warmth, and shelter for them.



You can find out what is in your garden or what visits your school grounds at night by [making this really simple footprint trap](#) as well as looking at other evidence of different animals.

Minstead Study Centre, is sited in the New Forest and offers residential school visits for up to 36 primary school children, as well as running day visits. They offer a range of outdoor environmental and sustainability themed activities across the curriculum. For further details or to have a discussion about making a booking at Minstead, please get in touch.

Minstead.sc@hants.gov.uk Tel: 02380 813437.

Stubbington Study Centre

At Stubbington Study Centre, our grounds are home to a variety of mammal species. We give our visiting children lots of opportunities to see some of these creatures up close.

In the evenings, groups of children can visit our hide. From here we see our famous badgers and the foxes. The children can watch on as these animals feed and observe the interaction between them. Over recent months, we have been lucky enough to have groups of badgers reaching as many as 7 or 8 at a time. Our badgers happily scoff away at the front with our foxes watching intently from the back, waiting for a chance to nip in. Fortunate groups have even managed to catch sight of a deer.

Each week, we also have groups of children taking part in our mammal study activity. The children prepare a 5-star hotel for their guests and leave these overnight to see if they can attract a visitor.

The next morning, our children watch on in awe of our mice and voles as we collect data on their size, weight and sex. Our visitors are given a name and studied closely before returning back home to hopefully visit another day.

If you are interested in a residential visit to Stubbington, their 2023/24 booking window will be opening on January 1st. Keep an eye on their [website](#) for more details.



Free Resources ...

National Outdoor Classroom Day – 3th November 2022

This is a global movement to make time outdoors part of every child's day. The day is a fantastic way to engage your whole school in exciting and creative learning outdoors. Organise a whole school, Key Stage or Year Group day of learning in time for the 3rd November. Use the ideas and resources on our [Trailblazer](#) website to help you take maths, English, Science Geography and more..., outdoors!



Maths Week England - 14-18 November 2022

This is a week-long celebration of all things maths! This year's theme is 'The Power of 2'. There are lots of outdoor maths activities on the [Trailblazer](#) website, so you can take your maths outdoors.

- [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](#)



British Science Week - 10-19 March 2023

The theme for [British Science Week 2023](#) is Connections. Activity packs are now available to download.

Looking for funding and free resources to support your STEM activities?

Ranging from £150-£700, **Kick Start Grants** are a fantastic funding opportunity for schools in challenging circumstances to run STEM-related events during British Science Week. The deadline for applications is Monday 7 November 2022.

RHS School Gardening Awards

Whether you're starting out in your school garden or developing an existing area, the School Gardening Awards can help! The scheme is accessible to all ages and abilities, urban and rural areas, and is open to all schools, community groups and educational groups in the UK. There are five awards to apply for and as you complete each one, you will receive a certificate and prize. Each level has resources to help you and is easy to achieve by submitting a few words and photos via the RHS School Gardening website. Once completed, you'll receive a certificate and reward worth up to £200!



Free Resources ...



Our River, Our Water is a free education programme from Wessex Rivers Trust. It teaches children about what lives within our rivers and the importance of saving water.

Sessions can be differentiated between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 classes and the activities link to a range of curriculum subjects including rivers, living things and their habitats, my local area and humans and the environment. The sessions are currently available on the River Dun, a tributary of the River Test, northwest of Romsey.

To find out more or make a booking, please contact Tracy Standish via tracy@wessexrt.org.uk or complete the [Our River Our Water school booking form](#).

Natural Nations Free Training

Learning Through Landscapes are running **free training sessions** for teachers and TAs for their Natural Nations Project. Natural Nations, brought together partners from across Europe and provides instructional videos, survey resources, lesson activity ideas, online training modules and a link to an international citizen science project. Schools can use four different surveys to identify much of the biodiversity in their grounds – the results can be uploaded onto a website hosted by the University of Lund who will be analysing the data. The surveys cover: habitats, pollinators, minibeasts and birds, and there are videos showing how to undertake each survey as well as ID charts, how to guides etc. The training session will look at the practical survey tools that have been produced. These resources will also help to deliver elements of the DfE's new Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy. The training will take place on **28th and 29th November 1-5pm in Winchester**. Please email Mary Jackson mjackson@ltl.org.uk if you are interested in attending, and on which day.



Early Bird Registration for Big Schools' Birdwatch 6 January to 20 February 2023.



Register to join in with **Big Schools' Birdwatch 2023** to find out which birds visit your school grounds. You don't need to be a bird expert - to help you and your class get ready, you'll receive a free pack with ID resources and more. Then choose an hour time slot during the first half of the spring term. This could be a lunchtime, after school or lesson. During this hour, record the birds you see in your school grounds. Record the maximum number of birds you see at any one time. Submit your results on the Big Schools' Birdwatch website by 20 February 2022.

Back in the classroom, you could use the data collected to create graphs and link to maths learning. You could also link to science and discuss what birds you saw and how that might be related to the habitat offered by your school grounds.



Free Resources ...



Measuring Carbon with Schools

Earthwatch UK have produced some resources to make measuring carbon more accessible to all children and young people, and those with SEND. Each resource has been put together to help you engage your pupils in all stages of citizen science, from understanding carbon capture, to tree identification.

These are pilot resources, and they welcome feedback on how to improve them at education@earthwatch.org.uk



The **National Outdoor Learning Award** (NOLA) provides a structure to help children reflect on what they have learnt during their outdoor adventures about themselves, others and the environment. This free Award can be used with any age group, any outdoor activity in any outdoor environment over any length of time. There are six areas: Safe, Learn, Respect, Self, Others and Environment. **Free Webinar:** Explore how you can use NOLA in your outdoor learning context. **23rd November 4.30pm - 5.30pm** [Book online](#).

We Are Nature: Action Research Project

This pack from Global Dimension invites young people to connect with nature, and to make a positive change in their local community. It can be used by school pupils or those learning at home, as well as extra-curricular clubs, youth groups, Duke of Edinburgh, student councils and more.

The project is broken into four parts:

- Observe what is happening in a natural space near you
- Plan how you are going to make a positive difference
- Take action by putting your plan into practice
- Reflect on what happened and think about what you could do next

This pack will guide young people through each of the stages of the project, so that by the end of it they will have taken action for a better future.



The Woodland Trust's Green Tree Schools Award

This award encourages outdoor learning and inspires pupils about trees, woods and wildlife, through practical projects, while helping the environment and improving your grounds. It's free and resources are provided to support and help you. Your pupils can also earn certificates in recognition of their achievements and a special plaque to display in your school. Schools are rewarded for doing environmental projects such as tree planting, reducing CO2 emissions and visiting woods. You collect points for each activity you complete, progressing through bronze, silver and gold levels up to the prestigious platinum award. You can use the award to support lessons in class or for gardening and eco-clubs too, as well as Forest School. It can also contribute to other award schemes such as Eco-Schools and the John Muir Award.



Free Trees For Schools...

The UK needs millions more trees to reach its 2050 carbon net-zero target. There are several organisations providing tree, orchard and hedgerow plants FREE to schools.

Sign up now to receive your trees this winter, so you can get planting!

The Tree Council's **National Tree Week** occurs from **26 November to 4 December 2022** and the planting season for trees is November to March.



The **Woodland Trust** are giving away hundreds of thousands of trees to schools and communities. They are currently taking applications for trees to be delivered in March 2023.

Tree Appeal plants trees to promote biodiversity, create habitats and improve the environment for people. They provide trees to schools and colleges throughout the UK.



Carbon Footprint runs a popular UK Tree Planting Project in schools where commercial partners sponsor trees to be planted in schools around the UK to support biodiversity, enhance the UK's natural landscape and to offset the sponsor's carbon emissions.

The **Tree Council** are offering schools fruiting tree and hedgerow packs. Register your interest to be notified when applications for the 2022-23 winter planting season open. They also provide all the resources and information you need to help your orchard thrive.



The **School Tree Nursery Programme**, run by the Earth Restoration Service, is where you plant tree saplings in your school grounds. Your school will act as a nursery for these young trees for typically 2 years.



When your trees are ready, they can be planted on your school grounds, or relocated into the local community, to be planted out at, for example, an environmentally degraded or vulnerable site such as an inner city park, derelict land, local woodlands and so on. The children can help decide where the trees finally will be planted and make them part of the grand event!

The Conservation Volunteers have free trees for schools. Claim your pack [here](#). They also have 1125 free [fruit tree packs](#) available – each pack of 4 fruit trees can create your very own mini fruit orchard in your school. Order now for despatch in March 2023.



Your existing trees in your school grounds can be used as a great learning resource, whether it be for example, identifying the species, measuring the diameter and height, working out the tree's age or calculating the size of its canopy.

These activities and others are available in the **Trailblazer Tree Activities**.



In the News...

Winter Tree ID

Want to boost your native tree ID skills this winter?

Do you struggle to know your alders from your elders?!

James Kendall, Bushcraft Instructor, Forest School Leader and author of The Complete Tree ID Course, will be presenting on this **free Forest**

School Association Wednesday Webinar, Winter Tree ID, 16th

November 2022, 8-9.30pm.

Here you can learn tips & tricks to identifying a range of tree species here in the UK in the season of winter as well as some ideas for how to inspire learners to ID trees. James has also provided access to his free online course and resources available on the [Woodland Classroom](#) – where you can watch video tutorials, view photo galleries, do quizzes and [download ID guides](#).

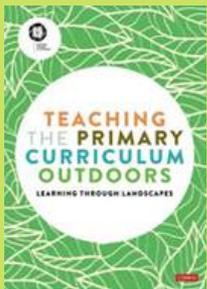


Learning through Landscapes Local School Nature Grants Programme

Apply for a £500 grant to develop your school grounds for outdoor learning.

The Grant gives you £500 of free equipment as well as some free outdoor learning training in your school grounds.

Round 4 deadline: Friday 11th November 2022.

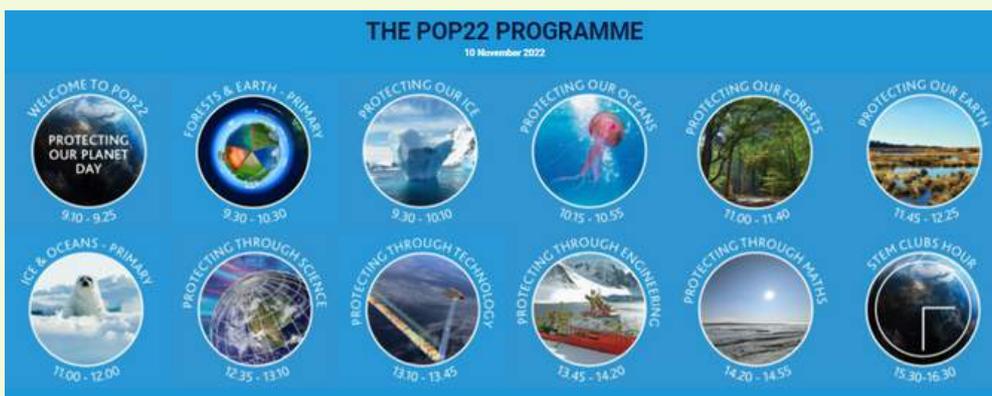


New book: Teaching the Primary Curriculum Outdoors

Learning Through Landscapes have recently launched this new book, which helps teachers with all aspects of embedding teaching outdoors. It is an excellent resource which will help you from wherever you are on your outdoor learning journey.

Protecting Our Planet Day - 10 November 2022

POP22 is an inspiring, live-streamed event for schools created by [STEM Learning](#).



POP22 will feature live link-ups, talks full of inspiration and exciting classroom activities from innovators and experts working to tackle climate change. POP22 takes place in parallel with COP27 climate summit to deepen the understanding of current environmental challenges and effective actions. You can take part with your class or your whole school and it is completely FREE to attend.



Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust's Training & Outreach Officer, Dawn O'Malley talks through the training HIWWT have on offer to schools and settings to embrace and develop outdoor learning.



We've had a busy 2022 spring and summer visiting our Forest School and Outdoor Curriculum Leader trainees, many of whom are delivering in their school grounds and we can confirm that the 'coolest' place to be in a heatwave is under the trees! Research shows that tree cover in school grounds improves mental wellbeing and academic attainment but we also believe that school grounds hold the key to unlocking inequality of access to green and blue spaces, offering all children the opportunity to connect with local nature and wildlife. We believe that equipping teachers and leaders with the skills and confidence to take groups outside is a key way this can be achieved.

Often the first step schools and settings make to embrace and develop an outdoor offer is staff training. Our training team can deliver Outdoor Learning or Forest School taster INSET training aimed at engaging and developing confidence for whole staff teams, this is a great starting point, some schools may be ready to jump straight to our accredited training courses. Our Forest School and Outdoor Curriculum Leadership courses are similar but have quite different outcomes for what is then delivered in school or local green spaces. I would suggest choosing based on what outcomes the school/ you are looking for.

The Forest School training is all about facilitating child led, explorative and discovery-based play and learning in a holistic way, connecting with nature, meeting children's needs and providing children with the growth mindset to develop resilience, self-regulation skills, creativity, physical development, social skills etc. but is not always easy to map against the National Curriculum.



If the school/ you are looking to improve the school grounds for both learning and wildlife and work towards a whole school involvement in outdoor learning that is mapped against the National Curriculum, then our Outdoor Curriculum Leadership training is the right course for you.

Earlier this year we visited Oliver's Battery Primary School to chat with their most recently qualified Forest School Leader, Teacher Charlotte Homewood and the Head Teacher Carly Redfern, about the Forest School training journey and offer in school grounds.

Watch 'The Benefits of Forest School - Charlotte's story'.



Physical Education

Bikeability Programme and Cycling



Thank you to the 22 schools who have welcomed our Bikeability Teams in during Autumn 1 and during the half term break. The teams have really enjoyed working with the schools and getting to know your young people. Approximately 1153 children have completed the training so far and the teams are very much looking forward to the next half term of training. This half term the teams are visiting another 27 schools across Hampshire (excluding Test Valley, Gosport and Fareham) reaching approximately 3036 young people.

Thank you to all the schools we are working with for their help to make this a successful programme, we couldn't do it without your help.

In other exciting news...

We are excited to be working on a pilot programme '**Get Cycling**' with The Bikeability Trust to develop cycling in schools. This project sees 10 schools across Hampshire trialling new staff training and resources in order to teach cycling in schools to Key Stage One students. We hope that this will increase the number of students that go on to access Level 2 Bikeability training in Year 5 or 6. If your school are interested in being involved in the pilot scheme then please follow the [link](#).

And finally, Damian Hinds MP (East Hants) and Emily Cherry, CEO The Bikeability Trust, joined Gordon Read, Bikeability Coordinator and Hampshire Outdoors Head of Service, Clare Dobbs, at Selborne Primary School on Friday 14 October. They witnessed a group of children undertaking their Level 2 Bikeability training, both on the playground and out in the community on the road.



Please do get in touch at jodie.bascombe@hants.gov.uk if you have any PE or PA questions.

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 2022/23, so you can see what's coming up and plan accordingly!



3 Nov - Outdoor Classroom Day is a global movement to make time outdoors part of every child's day.

10 Nov - Protecting Our Planet Day

POP22 takes place in parallel with the COP27 climate summit



14 - 18 Nov - Maths Week England The theme for 2022 is 'The Power of 2'.

14 - 20 Nov - Road Safety Week The theme is 'Safe Roads For All'.



23 Nov - Fibonacci Day November 23rd is celebrated as Fibonacci day, because when the date is put into the American mm/dd format (11/23) the digits in the date form a Fibonacci sequence: 1,1,2,3. The Fibonacci Sequence can be found countless places in nature. It has even been called "nature's numbering system".



26 Nov - 4 Dec - National Tree Week The largest annual tree celebration, marking the start of the winter planting season.

5 Dec - United Nations World Soil Day

This year's theme is 'Soils: where food begins'.

Look at [Trailblazer Soil and Mud Activities](#) for activity ideas.



6 Jan - 20 Feb - RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch

This is a citizen science project designed for schools across the UK as part of the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch.

30 Jan - 6 Feb - National Storytelling Week

Why not go outside and tell stories or even act them out?



6 - 12 Feb - Children's Mental Health Week

Children's Mental Health Week shines a spotlight on the importance of children and young people's mental health. Being outdoors is linked to physical and mental health benefits, and research shows that feeling connected to nature leads to reduced stress levels, improved concentration and behaviour and better sleep rhythms. This year's theme is Let's Connect.



[Outdoor health and wellbeing activities & games.](#)