

Earthwise

Educational visits to:



An information pack for teachers and education group leaders.



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Contact details

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Tel: 07825 040737
Websites: www.getearthwise.co.uk
www.thecommunityfarm.co.uk

Our farm visits are run and coordinated by Claire Rosling and Nicky Orr from Earthwise. We have been delivering educational farm visits since 2012 and our staff have a wealth of experience in outdoor learning – both Claire and Nicky are qualified Forest School Leaders are paediatric first aid trained, enhanced DBS checked and Food Safety trained. Alongside Claire and Nicky we occasionally have the support of volunteer helpers (also DBS checked).

About The Community Farm

The Community Farm is a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) scheme growing organic fruit and vegetables on 8.5 acres of land in Chew Magna, over-looking Chew Valley Lake. The farm run a vegetable box scheme that delivers fresh, local produce across Bristol, Bath, Frome and the Chew Valley. As a not-for-profit organisation, the proceeds from the box scheme are reinvested back into community projects for children, adults and vulnerable people.

The Community Farm have been welcoming school groups to the farm since 2012 and are working in partnership with Earthwise to deliver the educational visits. On the farm we have a beautiful yurt, roundhouse and outdoor shelter along with toilet facilities.

For more information about the farm, please visit:

www.thecommunityfarm.co.uk



Travelling to the farm

The farm is located just to the South of Chew Magna village, very close to Chew Valley Lake.



Address:

The Community Farm

Denny Lane
Chew Magna
Bristol
BS40 8SZ

We have parking facilities onsite. Please be aware that although coaches are able to access the farm on Denny Lane, they must do so by approaching the gate from the direction of Walley Lane as HGVs are not permitted from the other direction.

We encourage local schools to consider walking or cycling to the farm. Sustainability is of huge importance to all that we do at The Community Farm and as such we would like to support local groups to get to the farm by foot or by pedal – What better a way to kick start the day learning about sustainability?

Facilities

The farm have a beautiful 24ft Yurt, roundhouse and an outdoor shelter which we make use of for school visits. The yurt and roundhouse are fully kitted out with cookery equipment allowing us to offer cookery activities using the produce children harvest from the fields.

Although most of the day will be spent out on the fields, we can use the outdoor shelter for activities in the event of wet weather.

We have toilets and hand-washing facilities on site.

We do have some areas of the farm that are wheelchair accessible. If your group has individuals with physical disabilities please contact us to determine whether or not we would be able to support their needs.

Timings of trips

Our day trips generally run from 9.30am - 2.30pm however we are entirely flexible with this and can arrange times to suit your requirements.

What teachers have to say about us...

“We thoroughly enjoyed the day, both adults and children alike. We went with the purpose of understanding where our food comes from, the importance of healthy food and what is needed to maintain growth. All of these objectives were addressed and the practical, tangible experience of seeing for themselves how the food grows, helped the children appreciate all the processes involved more fully. The best part by far was allowing the children to hand pick a selection of products, prepare them for a salad – and eat the fruits of their labour for lunch! And, of course, the freedom of playing in the great outdoors – it’s a great location with fantastic scenery.”

Year 3 teacher, Brentry Primary School

“Absolutely FANTASTIC day! Thank you for all of your hard work. The children absolutely loved the day - as did the whole team! It was just right for them. Thank you!”

Reception teacher, Bathwick St. Mary Primary School

Learning Programme

The following Primary Learning Programme gives an example of what a day at the farm could bring. All day visits outlined in this programme can be adapted to suit EYFS, KS1 or KS2. Our Climate-themed visit is suitable for KS2 and KS3.

If you are interested in booking a visit for a secondary school or pre-school class then please get in touch and we can tailor a visit to meet your requirements.

We aim to make our Farm Visits a fun learning experience. All of our sessions are practical and hands on and we ensure that all activities suit the requirements of the group and needs of the school. Prior to a farm visit we work with teachers / group leaders to ensure that we focus on curriculum topics that are being built upon in the classroom as a means of re-enforcing the children's learning.

Farms are constantly changing with the seasons and as such, we encourage schools to bring the same class out to the farm at a different time of year - a second trip to the farm is never the same experience! We adapt our school visits to suit the seasons, thus giving a real appreciation of the changing tasks for farmers throughout the year.

Field to Fork day (June-November only)

Come and learn about the journey your food goes on from the field to your plate - from tiny seed to tasty vegetable. During this programme, children have the opportunity to harvest their own vegetables from the farm to prepare a healthy, seasonal snack!

This day trip can be tailored to suit either EYFS, KS1 or KS2 pupils with activities designed to support their differing learning needs.

This day trip supports all aspects of the Cooking and Nutrition subject content of the National Curriculum.

Learning Outcomes

Through farm games and activities children will have the opportunity to develop a greater understanding of the following topics (teachers can advise us on curriculum topics to focus on during the day):

- What Organic farming is and it's benefits
- What plants need to grow healthily
- An understanding of what farmers do through the seasons and what vegetables are in season at the time.
- How we manage pests (organically) and attract beneficial wildlife
- How to harvest a variety of vegetables
- How to prepare food for cooking
- Nutrition and the importance of a healthy diet

- Optional additional topics could include:
 - The different parts of plants and their function (optional)
 - Pollination (optional)
 - The composting process and the nutrient cycle (optional)

Curriculum links

Design & Technology, Science, Geography,

Little Farmers

During this day visit children will get the chance to explore the farm, and get involved in a practical farming activity depending on the season (for example, seed sowing, planting or harvesting). They will gain an understanding of where food comes from and what it takes to grow it. On the day we'll pick and taste some fresh produce from the field (season dependant).

Additional optional activities - choose 2 from the following:

What plants need to grow - a high energy interactive game demonstrating the different things plants need to grow healthily and the challenges that farmers face.

Compost critters – Using insect viewers and identification keys, children explore the mini-beasts on the farm, in particular those that help make our compost. Understand how composting works.

Soil makers - practical activity for children gain an understanding of what soil is, how it is made and it's huge importance in growing food.

Parts of plants - using veg from the farm we look at all of the different parts of plants and their purpose (as well as all the different parts of plants we eat!)

The Bees Knees (late spring and summer only) - Children take on the role of bees and understand the vital role that these fantastic insects play on the farm.

Farm detectives (KS2 only) - in groups children go on a vegetable fact finding mission, using maps to navigate the farm. The children present their findings to the rest of the class.

Food for the future: Climate and Sustainability Day

(suitable for KS2, KS3 and KS4)

Learning Outcomes

Our Certified Climate Change Educator, Claire Rosling leads these visits allowing children to develop a greater understanding of this crucial topic through games and hands-on activities. The day is very much focussing on empowering the children with understanding and positive action. Topics can include (but not limited to): Introduction to Climate Change and global heating and how food plays a huge part.

- An introduction to Climate Change, global heating and what role the food industry has
- How we grow food at The Community Farm vs. conventional farming
- Organic Farming and the benefits it brings to our health, wildlife and the environment
- Soil health and it's role in climate change
- The importance of locally produced food.
- Waste management and composting - What composting is and its importance in the nutrient cycle
- Positive actions!

Curriculum links

Science, Geography, English, PSHE

Farm Habitats

Our Organic Farm is a haven for wildlife! During this day trip children will get to explore the many different habitats we have on the farm and gain a real understanding of the inter-dependence of wildlife and organic farming. Children will get the opportunity to get up close with some of our creepy crawlies by going on a mini-beast hunt and going pond-dipping!

Learning Outcomes

Through various farm games and activities children will have the opportunity to develop a greater understanding of the following topics (teachers can advise us on curriculum topics to focus on during the day):

- What a habitat and a micro-habitat is
- How organic farming is beneficial for wildlife
- How habitat creation can encourage beneficial insects and creatures to help us farm organically
- How to use an identification key (KS2)
- Understand the importance of mini-beasts in the composting process
- Adaptations that some farm insects and creatures have for their survival

Curriculum links

Science, English, PSHE

Risk assessment

A generic risk assessment for school activities can be found at the end of this document. Risk assessments are reviewed on a 3 month basis.

Teachers are advised to come to the farm for a preliminary visit and to conduct their own risk assessment.

Cost

- £8 per pupil per full (5 hour) day. Minimum charge £200.
- £6 per half day (2.5 hours). Minimum charge £150.

An additional charge of 60p per child applies to Field to Fork visits to help us cover the cost of ingredients used.

Please note that we can accept groups with a maximum of 60 children (or two school classes).

Upon booking we ask for payment of a non-refundable 50% deposit. The remaining amount will be payable 1 week prior to your visit.

How to book

A provisional booking can be made by contacting Claire Rosling our Environmental Educator (contact details can be found towards the front of this booklet). Claire will send you all the necessary information for the day including a booking form.

Bookings will only be confirmed after receipt of the completed Booking Form and non-returnable deposit.

If the Booking Form and Deposit are not returned within four weeks of booking, the provisional booking will be cancelled.

Cancellation Policy

Upon booking a trip to the farm we ask for a non-refundable 50% deposit to secure the booking. If cancelling your booking within 7 days of the visit, the full cost of the visit will be retained to cover our costs.

In the unlikely event that we need to cancel your booking, we will aim to give you at least 24 hours notice where possible and will endeavour to offer to re-arrange your visit or

offer you a full refund (unless cancellation is due to a force majeure – see below). In any circumstance where we need to cancel your visit, Earthwise are not responsible for covering any additional costs incurred for example coach hire. Schools are advised to have their own insurance to cover such costs in the event of cancellation.

Force Majeure

In the event of dangerous weather and other circumstances or causes beyond our reasonable control, we may need to cancel your booking. This includes but is not limited to; electrical storms, heavy snow, winds exceeding 35mph, fire, explosion, flood, epidemic or other natural disaster, pandemic, terrorist attack or war.

We are unable to offer refunds for cancellations due to circumstances beyond our reasonable control but will endeavour to re-arrange your visit to the farm or offer an outreach visit to the school.

Sample Risk Assessment – School / Group Visits



NB. An up-to-date risk assessment will be sent prior to your visit.

Date of assessment	09/11/2021	Assessor	Claire Rosling	Site	The Community Farm
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No	Category of risk	Description of risks or hazards <i>(anything that may cause harm)</i>	Who is at risk	Risk rating before control			Control measures to reduce risk or harm	Risk rating after control		
				Likelihood	Severity	Rating		Likelihood	Severity	Rating
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Slips / trips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Uneven ground - Slippery surface - Injury - Loss of balance - cuts, bruises, sprains. 	all	2	3	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group informed to advise parents of appropriate clothing and footwear - Site explanation & point out any hazards such as slippery areas - No running except where indicated - Lay woodchip / straw on persistently slippery paths 	1	3	3
2	Disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Covid-19 - Weil's disease (rat borne) - Lyme's disease (tick borne) - Bacteria and viruses eg E. Coli 0157 	all	1	4	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hand gel and warm hand washing facilities provided - Government guidance checked and followed - Activities held outdoors where possible. - Wash hands before eating and going home - Appropriate clothing - long sleeves and trousers. - All food preparation areas are sanitised before use and it is ensured that equipment is clean. 	1	4	4
3	Insects and plants (stings, irritants, thorns, poisonous)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Horseflies - Bees & wasps - Poisonous and irritant plants (inc umbifellarae such as giant hogweed) - Bacteria from thorny plants 	All	2	3	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aware of severe allergies and carry appropriate medication - remind young people to be vigilant about nettles/brambles - advise of plants that can be irritants eg. parsnips, courgettes, chillies. - Aware of nests - Appropriate clothing - long sleeves and gloves - Point out any known poisonous plants - wash hands before eating or going home 	1	3	3
4	Weather Hypo - cold conditions Hyper - hot conditions	<p>Hypo:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hypothermia & frost bite <p>Hyper:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Heat stroke, heat exhaustion, sun burn 	all	2	4	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weather watch and plan activities accordingly - Appropriate footwear - Appropriate clothing - school informed to advise parents of appropriate clothing - Shelter 	1	4	4

		Rain: - Slippery, mud					- Welfare kit containing sun-cream, extra jumper, hot drinks when necessary - advise on taking care where slippery			
5	Hand Tools and cooking equipment	- Injury to self & others - Injury from misuse	all	2	4	8	- Tool / equipment safety talk given - Follow tool procedures - Safe working distance - Appropriate PPE - Appropriate clothing - No running / pointing with tools	1	4	4
6	Standing water	- Drowning - Slips / trips - Weils disease	all	2	4	8	- All made aware of pond area and adults made aware to keep children under close supervision near this area. - avoid areas of standing water (risk of Weils disease) - Brief group on hazard - Appropriate footwear - Appropriate clothing - wash hands before eating and going home	1	4	4
7	Getting lost	- Abduction - Abuse - Injury	yp	1	5	5	- Regular head counts - keep groups working close together with staff members in charge of separate groups - Good staff:student ratio during sessions	1	5	5
8	Poisonous animals - snakes	- Bites - Infection	all	1	4	4	- Assessment of site. - Take care when walking through long grass - Wear appropriate clothing and footwear. - Take care when lifting any possible natural reptile refugia (logs, stones)	1	4	4
9	Collision with vehicle	- being hit by a car / tractor	all	1	5	5	- When young people arrive, gather them in a safe location, clear from other incoming vehicles - Advise group on being aware of tractors moving around farm - Farm staff made aware of school group so that they can be extra vigilant when driving tractors on site.	1	5	5
10	Strangers	- Abduction - Abuse - Injury	yp	1	5	5	- Working groups of 3+ - adult helper with each group - good adult/child ratio	1	5	5

Severity of outcome.

- 1= Slight inconvenience
- 2= Minor injury requiring first aid.
- 3= Medical attention required
- 4= Major injury leading to hospitalisation
- 5= Fatality or serious injury leading to disability

Nearest A&E:

Bristol Royal Infirmary

Marlborough Street, Bristol, Avon, BS2 8HW
0117 923 0000

Nearest NHS drop-in clinic:

The Swallows

Paulton Memorial Hospital
Salisbury Road, Paulton
Bristol
BS39 7SB