



Information Pack for Primary Schools



www.learningfarm.co.uk



Learning Farm

Learning Farm is a special place for primary aged children where they can develop their sense of independence, whilst learning about the environment in a rich and varied context. Experiencing real crops growing, the feeling of running your fingers through a sack of wheat or oil seed rape and an opportunity to dig in a field and feel the texture of soil and see what everyday foods are made from these crops is the only way to learn where our food comes from. We specialise in hands on learning in many disciplines which will allow pupils to develop and apply a broad range of knowledge, understanding and skills.

What you can do at Learning Farm

A typical visit consists of a farm walk through a variety of different farm habitats including grassland grazed by sheep or cattle, one or two different crops, wildlife margins or field corners and new woodland. The visit can be a general farm visit where we take in growing crops, conservation management, hedgerow habitats, woodland, historic interest and renewable energy. Alternatively you can tailor the visit to tie in with topics that are being studied at school or make the visit entirely field studies based looking at mini beasts or crops and food.

We can offer specialist study in the following areas:

-  Conservation & wildlife habitats
-  Crops and food
-  Weather
-  Soils & Water
-  Renewable energy
-  History & archaeology

To find out more about what we can offer in these areas see our web site and follow links from the School Visits page under Curriculum Links.

Primary school activities at Learning Farm

We can tailor any visit to your requirements but these are some of the National Curriculum linked activities that we have done with school groups in the past.

Plants and animals living in their environment

- 🌿 Pond dipping
- 🌿 Sweep netting and using pooters
- 🌿 Pitfall traps and ground invertebrates
- 🌿 Leaf/flower collecting & making keys
- 🌿 Bark and leaf rubbing
- 🌿 Camouflaged caterpillars
- 🌿 Micro organisms & using microscopes
- 🌿 Using quadrats and comparing habitats i.e. crops compared with field margins
- 🌿 Crop plants – how they grow, different life stages
- 🌿 Seed collecting, dispersal & planting
- 🌿 Hedgerow habitats, niches & food chain/ecosystem game





Camouflaged caterpillar



Examining the pond dipping catch

Natural resources – soil, water and weather

- 🌱 Soil sampling & testing, comparing different soils, look at soil erosion
- 🌱 Stream studies, measuring flow, depth, stream bed profile.
- 🌱 Measuring wind, rainfall, temperature etc.
- 🌱 Making wind turbines & solar panels
- 🌱 Renewable energy – see different technologies operating to produce heat and electricity



History & Archaeology

- 🌿 Field walking for old pottery fragments
- 🌿 Owston Abbey & fishpond earthworks exploration – using results from Time Team investigation including fishpond soil cores and resistivity work on foundations of Abbey.
- 🌿 Ageing hedgerows and parish boundaries



Ageing a hedgerow

Art and design

- 🌿 Making dream catchers or decorated grass crowns/bracelets
- 🌿 Nature art or sculptures – Andy Goldsworthy style
- 🌿 Scavenger hunt for goodies to make into pictures in field study room.
- 🌿 Bird masks, stained glass window designs based on nature, making supersized insects.



Our food

- 🌾 Crops & food game
- 🌾 Harvesting wheat, grinding & making bread
- 🌾 Harvesting oil seed rape and crushing to extract vegetable oil
- 🌾 Pressing apples



Maps, travelling and orienteering

- 🌾 Hide and seek
- 🌾 Farm walk and journey sticks
- 🌾 Treasure hunts using maps
- 🌾 Making and using simple maps

Science, geography, art and design and history are the main subjects where we provide hands on experience. However, there are many opportunities to cover other curriculum subjects, some ideas are shown in the Curriculum Links diagram below.

Curriculum Links for visits to Learning Farm

Art & Design

Using nature in design – printing, models, painting, sculpture
Nature/animal photography
Natural dyes

Citizenship & PSHE

Where our food comes from
Growing your own food
Renewable energy – solar & biomass

Design & Technology

Automatic weather monitoring
Biomass heating systems & solar heating
Animal feed mixing plant
GPS and GIS in farm cropping

English

Topical issues – organic farming, conserving wildlife, renewable energy
Writing farming/gardening diary
Animal stories/poems



Physical Education

Farm walk
Hill rolling

Science

Crop husbandry, Integrated management, chemical use, minimal tillage, plant nutrients
Pond dipping and identification of freshwater invertebrates with magnifying pots and microscopes
Habitats and wildlife, habitat management
Soil science
Seasonal changes, weather, water cycle
Food chains and ecosystems
Birds and identification of species
Plant and insect identification, use of keys

Geography

GPS and GIS in farm cropping, soil management, fertiliser application
Human influences on the farmed environment.
Soil science & basic soil testing
Water cycle



History

Scheduled Ancient Monument of Augustinian Abby and fish pond earthworks
History of farming and traditional management techniques

Religious Education

Harvest festival
Augustinian Abby links and history of church in Owston

Mathematics

Measuring weather and graphical interpretation
Measuring growth in crops
Collecting ecological data
Water flow in streams

ICT

Farm maps and crop recording
Electronic weather data for graphical display
GPS and GIS

Music

Birdsong and sounds of nature
Natural instruments

Farm information

Farm name: Manor Farm, Owston

Farm address: Manor Farm, Main Street, Owston, Oakham, Leicestershire. LE15 8DH

Contact person: Saya Sheridan

Tel no: 01664 454401

Mobile no: 07919 353352

Email: saya@learningfarm.co.uk

Website: www.learningfarm.co.uk

Booking a visit

Please contact Saya to discuss your requirements and to book a visit. We have some funding available for 2 hour visits which you may be eligible for.

How to get here

Manor Farm is in the middle of the village of Owston, immediately opposite the point where middle street meets main street. At this T-junction turn right and enter the farm yard through the yard gate that is half way down the hill on the left hand side. A location map can be printed from our website.

On arrival

When you arrive at Manor Farm there is room in the farm yard for buses and/or cars to park and turn around. Someone will meet you on the road side near the farm entrance and point out a suitable parking places. When the children are off the bus or out of cars then the group will assemble in the farm yard near the farm house where toilets are available.

Facilities

We have toilets and hand washing facilities as well as a field studies room in the farm yard. The field studies room is heated and provides a good place for picnics if it is too cold or wet to be outside, doing more detailed study linked to the visit and if the weather is truly awful then we can do some inside activities relating to the farm. Disabled access toilets are available but disabled access around the farm is limited.

Risk Assessment

We have risk assessments available for all activities at Learning Farm, please enquire.