

Adventure Learning at Virginia Primary School

Our Vision

We want Virginia Primary School to be a community of happy, confident, motivated lifelong learners. We want our children to be successful citizens who value themselves and each other. Therefore, we are continually striving to ensure that we nurture, challenge and enable each and every one to be the very best they can be in all areas of school life.

Rationale

We believe in adventure. We know that outdoor learning and adventure when planned and integrated into the curriculum is a powerful vehicle for the development of children. The benefits of adventure are far reaching and long-lasting, ranging from immediate improvements in social skills to better longer term understanding of curriculum subjects. We believe that direct experiences are the most memorable and powerful learning tools – seeing, touching and experiencing something first hand is the best way to learn. Learning through adventure is a powerful personal development experience that helps promote and develop:

- Creativity
- Self-confidence, self-esteem and motivation
- Teamwork and communication skills
- Leadership and responsibility
- Decision making skills
- Independence
- A positive attitude to approaching new challenges
- A growth mind-set

We also aim to inspire our children by showing them places they may never otherwise visit and to show them ways of living and working that may appeal to their long term aspirations. We aim to truly widen their horizons!

Adventure Learning Programme

	Autumn	Spring	Summer
Nursery			Seaside
Reception		Spring ramble – Soanes Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seaside• Wide Horizons Forest school (6 week programme)
Year 1		Wide Horizons outreach programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seaside
Year 2		Wide Horizons outreach programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seaside• Shadwell Basin (6 week programme)
Year 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sleepover in school• Wide Horizons Weekend -		Seaside

	camping in Kent (with families)		
Year 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wide Horizons Weekend - camping in Kent (with families) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seaside • Gilwell Park Scout Camp – 1 night
Year 5	Cycle training and route planning	Cycle club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seaside • Wide Horizons Kent – week residential
Year 6		Docklands Sailing Centre – kayaking/sailing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seaside • Wide Horizons Wales - week residential • Paris – day trip

The seaside trip is every other year so the children will get to go at least three times in their school career.

Our Partnership with Wide Horizons Outdoor Education Trust

Wide Horizons is a charitable trust that runs six adventure learning centres in England and Wales. They provide a broad range of adventure activities for primary school children on a residential or daily basis.

We first stayed at their centre in Kent in 2011. Since then we have used the centre each year for our year 5 class. Their values and aims resonated with our own and so we decided to develop an adventure learning partnership with them.

The partnership began in September 2013 and the aim is for us to work with Wide Horizons to develop a programme of adventure learning from reception to year 6. They also support us in fund raising so that the programme is financially sustainable. So far, Wide Horizons have supported us in developing a partnership with Devonshires solicitors. They have donated £15,000 to the schools adventure learning programme to be spent over the next three years.

We are fortunate in that we are being supported by local businesses who are raising funds for us through an initiative called 'Bags of Opportunity'. We will raise £3,000 through this and we hope to make it a yearly event.

Our aim is that families will only need to contribute to the year 5 residential (£100). All other activities will be funded through pupil premium, the schools budget and through our adventure learning partnership. We will never exclude a child for financial reasons and we will always aim to keep any cost to families as low as possible.

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