



THE LOST WORDS OXFORDSHIRE

SCHOOL ACTIVITY AND
RESOURCE GUIDE



The Lost Words Oxfordshire

School Activity and Resource Guide

Since its publication in October 2017, *The Lost Words* by Robert MacFarlane and Jackie Morris has conjured a particular kind of magic in schools.

The unique appeal of this book is that it opens eyes to a truth long suspected in classrooms: that the words of the natural world – Acorn, Bramble, Dandelion, Otter – are fading from children’s minds. The Lost Words stands, with teachers, librarians and educators across the UK, against this disappearance of wild childhood. It is a joyful celebration of language, inspiring children (and adults) to rekindle their relationship with the natural world around them.

It is this vital rekindling of learning about the natural world that inspired the successful Lost Words Oxfordshire campaign, which has raised enough funds to provide a copy of *The Lost Words* and the *Explorers Guide* to every school in Oxfordshire.

This guide has been produced by The Lost Words Oxfordshire campaign to provide schools with information on a range of nature based learning activities and resources available to schools in Oxfordshire. We hope that these will enable schools to add further value to *The Lost Words* book and *Explorer’s Guide*.

This guide showcases a fantastic array of opportunities available to schools.

We would love to hear your feedback and especially if you have found the guide useful.

Andy, Angela and Rowena

The Lost Words Oxfordshire team – lostwordsoxon@gmail.com

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1. Activities

BERKS, BUCKS AND OXON WILDLIFE TRUST (BBOWT)

CONTACT	Corinne Richards
POSITION	Education Manager (Oxon)
EMAIL ADDRESS	sceec@bbowt.org.uk
TELEPHONE	01235 862024
WEBSITE	https://www.bbowt.org.uk/explore/discover-and-learn/go-wild-your-school
ACTIVITIES FOR SCHOOLS	<p>Go Wild at your School - Our popular workshops are run by knowledgeable environmental educators who are experts in making outdoor learning enjoyable, exciting and fun. They aim to inspire your children to become budding nature enthusiasts and future wildlife caretakers:</p> <p>Nature Discovery - Choose two from pond dip, bug hunt, sensory Earth-walk or owl pellet dissection.</p> <p>Outdoor Explorers - Become a wildlife survival expert: build animal shelters, track wildlife and have fun with mud and sticks.</p> <p>How to Help Wildlife - Choose from making bird feeders, bug hotels and hedgehog homes.</p>
AGE RANGE OR KEY STAGE(S)	EYFS, Key stage 1, Key stage 2
NUMBER OF CHILDREN / CLASSES ACTIVITIES ARE SUITABLE FOR	2 classes or 60 children
CURRICULA SUBJECTS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES SUPPORTED	Science, Geography and Maths
SUITABILITY FOR ALL CHILDREN	Yes
COST	£7 per child with a minimum charge £120 per group
NOTICE TYPICALLY REQUIRED	2 months but earlier is advised during peak time of March to July
WHERE THE ACTIVITIES WILL TAKE PLACE	Sutton Courtenay Environmental Education Centre (Sutton Courtenay Road, Didcot, Oxon, OX14 4TE), BBOWT reserves and your school grounds
SAFEGUARDING AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS	We provide risk assessments for our site and activities
NUMBER OF SCHOOL STAFF / HELPERS REQUIRED	1 adult to 3 children aged 1 - 5, 1 adult to 5 children aged 6 - 8, 1 adult to 8 children aged 9-16, 1 adult to 12 children aged 16 +

EARTH TRUST

CONTACT	Emmeline Smith
POSITION	Environmental Education Manager
EMAIL ADDRESS	emmeline.smith@earthtrust.org.uk
TELEPHONE	01865 407792
WEBSITE	https://earthtrust.org.uk/education/
ACTIVITIES FOR SCHOOLS	We provide a range of outdoor activities based on Forest School type activities, such as den building, storytelling, minibeast hunts and exploring nature
AGE RANGE OR KEY STAGE(S)	We offer activities from Nursery through to Year 7.
NUMBER OF CHILDREN / CLASSES ACTIVITIES ARE SUITABLE FOR	Depending on the activity we can take up to 3 classes of children a day (90). On average we have one to two classes on site.
CURRICULA SUBJECTS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES SUPPORTED	We achieve many learning outcomes across all of our sessions, our top 3 being Communication and language, Literacy and Art.
SUITABILITY FOR ALL CHILDREN	No restrictions. We welcome all groups, we adapt days and locations to suit the needs of the groups.
COST	£7 per child 1/2 day primary. Minimum £100 per session charge £9 per child full day primary. Minimum £225 per session charge £11 per child full day secondary. Minimum £275 per session charge
NOTICE TYPICALLY REQUIRED	Depending on the time of year, but 2 weeks minimum as we have to rota staff in.
WHERE THE ACTIVITIES WILL TAKE PLACE	Activities will happen on our nature reserve. We are very lucky to access to some beautiful locations such as woodlands, meadows, rivers and ponds. Earth Trust, Little Wittenham, Abingdon OX14 4QZ
SAFEGUARDING AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS	Yes every activity we run has a completed risk assessment. We have a strict safeguarding policy for the Earth Trust, all staff leading groups have been DBS checked and completed safeguarding training.
NUMBER OF SCHOOL STAFF / HELPERS REQUIRED	1 adult for every 6 pupils in school years EYFS to Year 3 (aged 3-8). 1 adult for every 8 pupils in school Years 4-6 (aged 8-11). 1 adult for every 10 pupils in school Years 7 onwards (aged 11 plus).

EARTHWATCH EDUCATION

CONTACT	Education team
EMAIL ADDRESS	education@earthwatch.org
TELEPHONE	01865 318820
WEBSITE	https://earthwatch.org.uk/
ACTIVITIES FOR SCHOOLS	<p>Discover Earth Hub Day - CPD training opportunity offering the tools and resources which make it easy for all teachers and educators to take science learning outside.</p> <p>Discover Earth Roadshow - whole school engagement through an assembly and up to four classes through the day, getting hands on with a range of our citizen science projects including Naturehood.</p>
AGE RANGE OR KEY STAGE(S)	Key Stage 1-2
NUMBER OF CHILDREN / CLASSES ACTIVITIES ARE SUITABLE FOR	30 children/1 class
CURRICULA SUBJECTS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES SUPPORTED	Geography, Science, Maths
SUITABILITY FOR ALL CHILDREN	Yes
COST	None
NOTICE TYPICALLY REQUIRED	One term in advance
WHERE THE ACTIVITIES WILL TAKE PLACE	Activities take place in school grounds, but if outside space is limited we can work with teachers to identify and use another green space such as a park.
SAFEGUARDING AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS	Standard risk assessment for outdoor learning provided
NUMBER OF SCHOOL STAFF / HELPERS REQUIRED	2 members of staff/support staff

LOWER WINDRUSH VALLEY PROJECT

CONTACT	Lucy Kennery
POSITION	Project Manager
EMAIL ADDRESS	lwvp@oxfordshire.gov.uk
TELEPHONE	07557082575
WEBSITE	oxfordshire.gov.uk/lowerwindrushvalleyproject
ACTIVITIES FOR SCHOOLS	Pond dipping, visits to nature reserves and bird hides.
AGE RANGE OR KEY STAGE(S)	KS1 and KS2
NUMBER OF CHILDREN / CLASSES ACTIVITIES ARE SUITABLE FOR	Between 10 and 20
CURRICULA SUBJECTS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES SUPPORTED	Biology and Geography
SUITABILITY FOR ALL CHILDREN	For the most part. Discussion would be required regarding any children with disabilities or special requirements.
COST	None
NOTICE TYPICALLY REQUIRED	Approximately 2 months
WHERE THE ACTIVITIES WILL TAKE PLACE	At nature reserves in the Lower Windrush Valley, South of Witney
SAFEGUARDING AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS	Activities near water

OXFORD POETRY LIBRARY

CONTACT	Phoebe Nicholson
POSITION	Head Librarian
EMAIL ADDRESS	oxfordpoetrylibrary@gmail.com
TELEPHONE	07511462188
WEBSITE	oxfordpoetrylibrary.co.uk
ACTIVITIES FOR SCHOOLS	3 hour nature-walk-and-workshop session inspired by The Lost Words. This includes a led nature walk by our resident ecologist (including binocular training and activities around bird identification), plus a practical poetry-writing session for children to create and illustrate their own Lost-Words-inspired poem.
AGE RANGE OR KEY STAGE(S)	We have previously run these workshops for 7-14 year olds and Year 6 classes, but it is adaptable to most age groups, though there is reading and writing involved.
NUMBER OF CHILDREN / CLASSES ACTIVITIES ARE SUITABLE FOR	Up to 30 children split into two groups
CURRICULA SUBJECTS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES SUPPORTED	English, Science, Geography
SUITABILITY FOR ALL CHILDREN	Literacy (independent reading and writing) skills are necessary for both the walk and poetry section of the workshop. The walk can be adapted to suit children with various mobility needs.
COST	£150 but this is fully negotiable to suit needs and resources of the school.
NOTICE TYPICALLY REQUIRED	2 months
WHERE THE ACTIVITIES WILL TAKE PLACE	We have previously run the session at Flo's - The Place in the Park, Florence Park and Boundary Brook Nature Reserve, but it can be adapted to anywhere with outdoor space and nearby indoor space for crafting/writing activities.
SAFEGUARDING AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS	Our facilitators are fully DBS checked, but we require at least one teacher present to help supervise the group. We use materials which are non-toxic and child-friendly for the craft section of the workshop. We would require a risk assessment of the outside space where the walk is planned.
NUMBER OF SCHOOL STAFF / HELPERS REQUIRED	1-2 teachers

OXFORD UNIVERSITY MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

CONTACT	Chris Jarvis
POSITION	Education Officer
EMAIL ADDRESS	chris.jarvis@oum.ox.ac.uk
TELEPHONE	01865 282537
WEBSITE	https://www.oumnh.ox.ac.uk
ACTIVITIES FOR SCHOOLS	Hands-on taught sessions using museum specimens to explore natural history subjects linked to the National Curriculum.
AGE RANGE OR KEY STAGE(S)	Tailored and differentiated for all ages and abilities.
NUMBER OF CHILDREN / CLASSES ACTIVITIES ARE SUITABLE FOR	Up to 32 children
CURRICULA SUBJECTS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES SUPPORTED	Rocks and Fossils, Evolution, Classification
SUITABILITY FOR ALL CHILDREN	Yes
COST	£100 per session
NOTICE TYPICALLY REQUIRED	A half-term
WHERE THE ACTIVITIES WILL TAKE PLACE	Within the museums classroom. OUMNH, Parks Rd, Oxford OX1 3PW
SAFEGUARDING AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS	No more than any LoC activity in a public space.
NUMBER OF SCHOOL STAFF / HELPERS REQUIRED	1 adult for every 10 children

THE HILL END CENTRE

CONTACT	Lucy Crittenden
POSITION	Communication and Finance
EMAIL ADDRESS	admin@hill-end.org
TELEPHONE	01865 863510
WEBSITE	www.hill-end.org
ACTIVITIES FOR SCHOOLS	Day activities for all ages, residential trips, forest tots, family events and self-led activities. The Hill End Centre has been providing inspirational outdoor education to the children of Oxfordshire and beyond for nearly 100 years. Now an independent charitable trust, it continues to offer a wide range of activities and residential trips in beautiful natural surroundings 4 miles from Oxford.
AGE RANGE OR KEY STAGE(S)	All ages
NUMBER OF CHILDREN / CLASSES ACTIVITIES ARE SUITABLE FOR	Day activities for all ages, residential trips, forest tots, family events and self-led activities. The Hill End Centre has been providing inspirational outdoor education to the children of Oxfordshire and beyond for nearly 100 years. Now an independent charitable trust, it continues to offer a wide range of activities and residential trips in beautiful natural surroundings 4 miles from Oxford.
CURRICULA SUBJECTS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES SUPPORTED	Science, History, team-building
SUITABILITY FOR ALL CHILDREN	Generally yes. Outside activities on uneven ground may not suit those with mobility needs but we work with settings on their requirements
COST	See website for details
NOTICE TYPICALLY REQUIRED	Bookings are normally several weeks or months in advance, short notice visits will be subject to availability.
WHERE THE ACTIVITIES WILL TAKE PLACE	The Hill End Centre, Eynsham Road, Farmoor OX2 9NJ
SAFEGUARDING AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS	Yes. Hill End has risk assessments in place for activities we run, but groups need to ensure they have all necessary risk assessments and safeguarding measures in place.
NUMBER OF SCHOOL STAFF / HELPERS REQUIRED	This depends on activity, the need and teacher:student ratios of the class, but it is common for schools to bring around 3 members of staff for one of our tutor-led day sessions.

TOLHURST ORGANICS

CONTACT	Tamara Schiopu or Iain Tolhurst
POSITION	Director and Founder
EMAIL ADDRESS	info@tolhurstorganic.co.uk
TELEPHONE	01189843428 / 07795334474
WEBSITE	http://www.tolhurstorganic.co.uk/on-farmopportunities/school-visits/
ACTIVITIES FOR SCHOOLS	Nature walk in the garden, beetle watching, bird watching, berry collection, weeding. Plant raising – 4-5 operations, Field works, including pruning. Compost turning, Planting, hoeing, harvesting, Packing, Watering crops/irrigation, Grading vegetables, Stocking-up the veg shop, Machinery maintenance, Crop protection.
AGE RANGE OR KEY STAGE(S)	KS1 and KS2 - http://www.tolhurstorganic.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Tolhurst-Organic-Linked-to-the-National-Curriculum-KS1-KS2.pdf
CURRICULA SUBJECTS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES SUPPORTED	Science, Art & Design, Geography
COST	£3.50–5.00/child or £150–250/day. It depends on your needs and requirements for the day.
NOTICE TYPICALLY REQUIRED	This is a working farm and visits are possible by prior appointment.
WHERE THE ACTIVITIES WILL TAKE PLACE	Tolhurst Organic lies just outside the village of Whitchurch-on-Thames in South Oxfordshire (RG8 7RB). Nestled between the Chilterns and the river Thames, the farm of 17 acres is situated in the picturesque Hardwick Estate, with 17 acres in two fields and 2 acres in the 500 year old Walled Garden.

2. Resources

BERKS, BUCKS AND OXON WILDLIFE TRUST (BBOWT)

CONTACT	Corinne Richards, Education Manager (Oxon)
RESOURCES	Spotter sheets and competitions
COST	Free
ACCESS	https://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk

EARTHWATCH EDUCATION

CONTACT	Education team
EMAIL	education@earthwatch.org.uk
RESOURCES	KS1-2 curriculum linked resources related to citizen science and outdoor learning.
COST	All resources are free to download and use. For teachers wanting more in-depth training we run weekend Teach Earth training course weekends at Wytham Woods for £75.
ACCESS	https://earthwatch.org.uk/get-involved/education-and-schools/resources-for-teachers-and-schools

GOING WILD

CONTACT	Fiona Danks and Jo Schofield, Authors
EMAIL	info@goingwild.net
TELEPHONE	07867743208
WEBSITE	www.goingwild.net
RESOURCES	Our books inspire children, families and teachers to explore the natural world. Our latest book is "Wild Things - over 100 magical outdoor adventures", published by Lonely Planet Kids - all about imaginary outdoor play and inspiration.
COST	Cost of buying our books
ACCESS	www.goingwild.net

INTERNATIONAL TREE FOUNDATION

CONTACT	Andy Egan, Chief Executive
EMAIL	andy@internationaltreefoundation.org
TELEPHONE	07729802663
WEBSITE	www.internationaltreefoundation.org
RESOURCES	<p>The Tree Power programme supports teachers and schools to inspire new generations about the local and global importance of trees and forests through an innovative combination of global and outdoor learning.</p> <p>Tree Power - Inspiring Children to Understand and Protect the Natural World is a Key Stage 2 teaching resource pack providing 8 interlinked sessions for teachers to deliver with their class. It helps teachers to deliver a range of curriculum elements in a creative and engaging way.</p> <p>In Autumn 2019 we will publish a new KS2 teaching resource - Healthy, Food, People and Planet – for children to investigate the impact of different types of food production and diets on forests and make informed choices about eating food that is healthy for people and the living world.</p>
COST	The Tree Power pack is free to download
ACCESS	http://internationaltreefoundation.org/tp-resource-pack/

JOHN MUIR TRUST

CONTACT	Stephanie Harcus, Development & Communications Co-ordinator
EMAIL	stephanie.harcus@johnmuirtrust.org
TELEPHONE	01796 470080
WEBSITE	https://www.johnmuirtrust.org/
RESOURCES	<p>An Explorer's Guide to The Lost Words - a guide to explore further some of the ideas and creatures conjured up by Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris in their enchanting 'spell book'.</p> <p>Posters from The Lost Words.</p> <p>The Lost Words for Schools Padlet - https://padlet.com/LostWordsforSchools/lwfs - is a moderated online board showcasing children's work, teaching ideas, and resources.</p> <p>Literacy & Nature Resource Guide.</p> <p>Literacy & Nature for Educators: Session Guidance for running your own training sessions using The Lost Words resources.</p>
COST	All the resources are free to access and download
ACCESS	https://www.johnmuirtrust.org/initiatives/the-lost-words

OXFORD UNIVERSITY MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

CONTACT	Chris Jarvis
POSITION	Education Officer
RESOURCES	We have a variety of supporting materials including online activities and trails for self-guided visits on our website.
COST	Free
ACCESS	https://www.oumnh.ox.ac.uk

TEACHWIRE

WEBSITE	https://www.teachwire.net/
RESOURCES	Penguin has released some new teaching resources for The Lost Words, consisting of 12 Challenge Cards. The cards are all themed around The Lost Words; they are matched to the curriculum with objectives including: 'cultivating ethical, informed citizens', and 'improving the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils'. Read more here: https://www.teachwire.net/products/bring-nature-to-life-in-your-classroom-through-the-magic-of-language
COST	Free to download
ACCESS	https://www.teachwire.net/uploads/products/The_Lost_Words_Challenge_Cards.pdf

WOODLAND TRUST

CONTACT	Learning Team
EMAIL	learning@woodlandtrust.org.uk
TELEPHONE	0330 333 3300
WEBSITE	www.woodlandtrust.org.uk
RESOURCES	We have various educational resources to help with learning inside and outside of the classroom. All activities are linked to the KS1 and KS2 curriculum. They include a planning tool, planting advice and interactive quizzes.
COST	Free
ACCESS	https://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk

"Watching The Lost Words take root and flourish in schools around the country over the past year has been amazing. The book has drawn teachers and children outside, exchanging the classroom for trips to woods, learning the names of the everyday creatures and plants with which we share our landscape.

At a time when the arts are under threat in schools, and wildlife is under threat in the landscape, it's hugely inspiring to me and Jackie that a project is underway in Oxfordshire to bring creativity and nature back into children's lives."

Robert Macfarlane

"The placing of books into schools and the generosity of those who work so hard to make this happen is so heart lifting for both myself and Robert. It is so important to democratise the access for children to books, to knowledge.

I found my way into the world through the school libraries when I was a child. I hope children and teachers find the book to be a place they can rest and thrive and grow in these testing times."

Jackie Morris

