

Partnership Newsletter



No. 9 Summer 2011

High Weald Hero Actions *Find Out About *Explore *Take Care of *Be Proud of *Enjoy

Hello! Welcome to another High Weald Hero Partnership newsletter. With the final term now underway, we hope that you are having lots of opportunities to Find Out About, Explore, Take Care Of, Be Proud Of and Enjoy the High Weald landscape.

For any ideas, advice or teaching resources on using your local area, do get in touch - contact details at end of this newsletter.

We would also like to welcome...

- Icklesham CEP School
- West Green Primary School
- Stonegate CEP School
- Hollington Primary School
- Mountfield & Whatlington CEP School and
- Sir Henry Fermor CEP School, to the partnership.

Have you seen our website?

Numerous free resources are available online:
www.highweald.org/learn/education.html



Artistic Heroes

Have you taken part in The Fabulous Felt Illusion or The Great Charcoal Experiment recently? Children from 8 High Weald Hero schools have!

In partnership with Same Sky, a community arts group, 4 art workshops - working with clay, felt, charcoal and watercolours - have been developed specifically for primary schools in the High Weald.



Pupils from Wadhurst Primary School show off their felt creations.

Initial feedback indicates that *all* teachers would recommend the sessions to other schools and that children were highly engaged and enthused by the activities. Follow-on resources are left in school to help teachers share ideas with colleagues and deliver the sessions to other classes.



The workshops, using the High Weald's landscape, natural materials and local products as inspiration, are currently on offer to primary schools across the area. **Want to find out more? Contact Laura for details.**

Eye Spy Explorers

Since the launch of the Eye Spy High Weald books in March, over 6000 primary school children in the High Weald have received their free copy. The guides contain almost 100 landscape features to track down in the surrounding countryside. Children are being encouraged to head outdoors and collect as many points as possible.



Class 3 from Colliers Green school took the guides on their Welly Walk as part of their 'Out and About' topic to help them find out more about the route.



Have you got your Eye Spy books yet? FREE copies available to all pupils in High Weald Hero schools - contact Laura to request yours.

Planning Ahead

Planning for next year? A 'High Weald Hero' topic web is now available! With many schools now aiming to have a creative, cross-curricular approach to their learning, we have produced a High Weald Hero planning framework to support and further inspire your activities.

The topic web includes coverage for KS1 and KS2 objectives as well as Assessment for Learning Opportunities.

Why not kick start the new academic year with a High Weald focus? Fully funded support available from Laura for workshops, assemblies and outdoor learning opportunities if required.



Download the topic web, and other supporting materials, from the Education Resources page at: www.highweald.org/learn/education.html



A number of High Weald Hero schools are already using the High Weald as part of their learning journeys and topics.

Creativity Comes to the Forest

Willow weaving, natural face paints and knitting were all part of a school's creative art day held at the Ashdown Forest Visitor Centre in May.

Four High Weald Hero schools – Blackwell, St Augustine's, Turners Hill & Nutley - were invited to participate in a day of 'hands on' creativity. Whether knitting sheep tails or grinding nettles to make face paint, the children approached each task with enthusiasm as they learnt new skills and techniques.



As part of Ashdown Forest Coppice Week the children also had an opportunity to learn more about coppice crafts and see a traditional charcoal burn in action.



The children were then invited to return to the Forest the following day to participate in AshFest, the Ashdown Forest Festival. Willow mementos made by the children were used to decorate a large sheep sculpture - the centrepiece of AshFest.

During AshFest, visitors had the opportunity to take part in numerous activities that were all linked to the heritage of Ashdown Forest.

A musical procession and dance brought the Festival to a close and there were over 40 entries in the children's 'decorate a shepherd's crook' competition. Congratulations to Ieuan from Nutley primary school for his winning entry!

Both the creative arts day and the Ashdown Forest Festival were supported by the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme, organised by the High Weald AONB Unit, in partnership with Same Sky, ESAMP and the Sussex Wildlife Trust.



Did you know that you can take school groups to the Ashdown Forest Visitor Centre? Self-led and guided options are available. Prices start from just £65 and a large range of field equipment is available to hire to support your activities. See: www.ashdownforest.org/about/education.php for more information.

Feuilles, fleurs, arbres



2 High Weald Hero schools have been putting their linguistic skills to the test whilst exploring local woodlands.



Both St Matthew's High Brooms and Lamberhurst St Mary's CEP school, embraced a challenge to practise their French speaking and listening skills as they ventured outside to locate minibeasts, build dens, play games and discover more about the landscape and history of the High Weald. St Matthew's school also created homes for woodland creatures and Lamberhurst pupils used a visit from the ghost of Jack Frost (!) to inspire some excellent creative writing.



Children from both schools had to locate various items, including coléoptères and coccinelles (beetles and ladybirds..) and explain, in French, what they enjoyed doing in the woods. Both schools

have since created powerpoint and video presentations that will be shown to a French primary school in the autumn term.



As part of this project some of our High Weald Hero education resources have been translated into French. If you would like copies of these, or more information about the completed project, please contact Sam Nicholas: s.nicholas@highweald.org

Find Out More

High Weald Heroes is a partnership of primary schools that have demonstrated their commitment to the local landscape by undertaking the High Weald Hero actions – Find Out About, Explore, Take Care of, Be Proud of and Enjoy.

For more information, please contact:

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News needed - If you have any news or stories you would like to be included in the next newsletter or to appear on our website please let us know



Check out the learning zone - www.highweald.org