

Partnership Newsletter

No. 10 Autumn 2011



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

With another academic year now well and truly here we thought it was time to send you the latest High Weald Hero update. There are now over 70 primary schools in the High Weald Hero network and it is great working with you all. Don't forget, as a High Weald Hero school, you have access to fully-funded resources, workshops, assemblies and outdoor learning opportunities to help your children discover more about the landscape and how special the High Weald is.

Keep an eye on our website for the latest free resources and opportunities.

www.highweald.org



We would also like to welcome...

- Leigh Primary School
- Holy Trinity C.E. (A) School, Cuckfield
- Mayfield CEP School
- Ashurst Wood Primary School and
- Our Lady Queen of Heaven Primary School, to the partnership.

Grow, Cook, Eat

Discover how to grow, cook and eat local, healthy, sustainable and affordable food by participating in workshops run by Commonwork.

Visit Commonwork's organic farm and education centre, at Bore Place near Sevenoaks, to explore the world of food and farming through hands-on, curriculum-linked activities.



Little Red Hen Day (KS1) Listen to little Red Hen's story, make bread, visit the farm's ex-battery hens and plant a seed.

Global Food Day (KS2) Discover the global links of our foods and create a simple meal with a relevant theme eg. Tudor food

Global Food Week (KS2 -5) December 5th-9th Complete the 'under a £1' challenge and create a meal for less than 50p

Food and Farming (KS2-3) Make bread, visit the farm and discuss the choices we make about local and global food.

Commonwork also offers a variety of additional workshops including homes and houses, minibests, habitats, recycled art, sustainability and children's rights.

For information, costs or to discuss a visit, please contact : Julia Bracewell 01732 463255

Free Trees!

2012 marks the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and to celebrate, the Woodland Trust are encouraging people across the UK to come together to plant 6 million trees.



Individual trees, small copses, traditional hedgerows and woodland are invaluable. They enhance the places where we live, learn, work, rest and play. Trees can transform an area by introducing welcome shade, protective shelter and wildlife, and are a great, green investment for future generations.



The Woodland Trust has free tree packs available to schools (60 trees) as well as the opportunity to plant a Jubilee Wood if you have an acre or more of land.

See: www.MoreTreesMoreGood.org.uk/jubilee for full details and to apply for your free trees!

Art, Science & Maths on the Forest

3 new themed field packs are now available for schools to use when visiting Ashdown Forest.

- **Natural Numeracy** - Use and enhance numeracy skills whilst learning more about the habitats and the locality of Ashdown Forest (KS2)
- **Ashdown Art** - use the habitats and locality of Ashdown Forest as inspiration for creative and artistic activities (KS2)
- **Beauty and the Beasts** - learn more about minibests, habitats and the locality of Ashdown Forest (KS1)

Following the Broadstone Amble, a short way marked route from the Ashdown Forest Centre Car Park, children can use the equipment included in the Field Pack boxes to complete simple activities and discover more about the unique local landscape. Each box contains the equipment for all activities (enough for approximately 30 pupils) plus full instructions for how to complete the tasks.

Boxes can be hired, for just £10, from the Ashdown Forest Visitor Centre T: 01342 823583. Details of the packs can be downloaded at: www.ashdownforest.org/enjoy/education.php

A BIG thank you to pupils from Danehill CEP School, West Green Primary and St Mary's Hartfield for piloting the field packs - you were wonderful!



Energy Day

Ancient fire-making, solar car designing and tree-ring counting were just a few of the activities undertaken by children at the fourth High Weald Sustainable Energy Day held at Ashdown Forest.



Over 100 pupils from High Weald Hero schools: Sir Henry Fermor; Rotherfield; High Hurstwood; and St Mary's Catholic Primary School, engaged in a whole day of energy-themed activities.



The children learnt about many different types of energy and how they can be sourced from their unique local environment - the High Weald. They explored past energy sources such as fire-making, present uses such as woodfuel and looked at future options by designing and making solar cars.



The day was organised as part of the High Weald Heroes primary school education programme with help from The Skinners' School, Beacon Community College, Ashdown Forest Conservators, ESAMP and the Sussex Wildlife Trust. Planning is now underway for the next High Weald Sustainable Energy Day, at Buchan Country Park, in the new year.



Feedback from teachers has been very positive saying that "children were inspired" and that, "the day was fantastic, enjoyed by both the children and the adult helpers".



Numerous teaching resources have been developed for primary school teachers about energy and its link to the High Weald landscape. They are free to download from: www.highweald.org/learn/education.html

Sustainable energy kits are also available for free hire to schools - contact us for details.

Eco clubs in the High Weald

Pupils at St Mary's Lamberhurst Primary School are continuing to be High Weald Heroes even after the end of the school day!

With help from Saul, they have got involved in a regular after school eco-club. The sessions are part of "Jack Frost's Footsteps" a Heritage Lottery Funded project aimed at improving the Lamberhurst Gravel Pit local wildlife site for biodiversity, public access and community involvement.

So far, the children have hunted for minibeasts, made bird boxes, learned how to identify trees, gone on bird walks and much, much more.



School needed! Are you interested in running a High Weald Heroes afterschool club? A template of 10 'hands on' and interactive sessions has been put together and we are looking for a school to pilot the project on our behalf. Support is available to help set up the club but we're looking for an enthusiastic teacher (and some children!) to take on the project and get involved in treasure hunts, cooking, minibeast hunting...
Interested? Contact Laura - l.sweeting@highweald.org - for more details.

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