

## Magdalen Farm Inquiry Days

Let Magdalen answer the questions that your students want to know about. Following the curriculum for Key Stage 1& 2 we will use a variety of skills to uncover the answers.

### River Study Day



*“Is the life in a river the same as in a pond?”*

*“Is the bed load on the river bed bigger in fast flowing water?”*

*“What can we do to improve our waterways?”*

What better way to learn about rivers and streams than to experience being in one!.

Spend the day investigating the River Axe and experience a range of exciting cross curricular activities in this beautiful location. Tailor made to your aims and objectives, spend the day bringing the classroom outdoors

**Scientific Study** – An opportunity to study the River Axe using mathematics and measuring skills and developing problem solving techniques. Groups will investigate a cross section of the river and use their findings to build a river profile, spending time investigating the life in and around the river by dipping, identifying and exploring the river habitat.

We will also investigate human impact, both positive and negative, on riparian habitats and students will learn about the water cycle and the importance of rivers.

**Scientific Inquiry** –Does your class have a hypothesis or scientific question to answer? Use the rivers and ponds at Magdalen to research, investigate and develop scientific skills such as observing, recording and field sketching.

**Geography** - Children will be able to identify and learn about river features by observing, first-hand, the effects of erosion, wade the meandering river bed to observe deposition and walk along the water course to identify the flood plain, river banks and tributary streams.

**Creativity** – Using this inspiring location, groups will spend time using their senses to record the sights and sounds of the river to write river haikus on natural resources and send them down the River Axe.

## Habitat Hunters

Using the diverse habitats of Magdalen Farm, groups can hunt for evidence of wildlife, compare habitats and learn about human impact on habitats and species. Let us know if your class is learning about a specific animal or habitat.



**Science** - Minibeast hunt and habitat comparison. Using simple equipment, children can hunt for life on our diverse farm.

*Hedgerow versus vegetable patch or tree versus meadow*

*Will we find different creatures in these very different environments?*

Children can develop mathematical skills by creating charts and graphs to record the species found in different areas of the farm. Children will also learn about biodiversity and play fun and exciting food chain games to help them understand about producers and consumers and predator prey relationships.

**ICT** – Using endoscopes, groups can use these small, flexible cameras to observe hidden habitats - tree hollows, rotten logs and even look under the water!

**Literacy** – Children can create a mini beast profile to record the information they have collected. These can take the form of reports, tables or even top trumps!

**Geography** – Children can make simple maps and keys of the farm to record habitat features and the evidence and creatures they have found. Children will learn about the positive and negative impact that humans can have on a habitat through a range of fun and interactive games.

**Creativity** – children can use simple tools and reuse farm materials to make bug hotels and mini habitats.

## Environment/Sustainability

Magdalen farm has a wealth of sustainable features and with the farms ethos strongly centred around environmental impact and organics, it provides a fabulous setting for investigating and learning about

Spend the day finding out about human impact on the environment and investigate a range of sustainable solutions and features of the farm.



**Geography** – With its sustainable ethos and focus on the environment, Magdalen Farm has a wealth of technology and features which demonstrate the possibilities of a green future. Find out about sustainable building materials, solar technology and visit our wood pellet biomass boiler.

Find out about the importance of organic farming and how it supports the environment and the farms biodiversity. We will discuss animal welfare and spend time in the vegetable patch reviewing soil, composting and natural pest control.

**Science** – Cooking simple pizzas in our outdoor ovens is a great way to learn about the “Carbon cycle” as we discuss sustainable fuels, how the oven is built and where the ingredients for the pizza actually comes from.

**Literacy** - Debate focussed on sustainable futures and green technology.

*Should we all be buying electric cars?*

*Should we have more wind farms in the UK?*

*Should all new houses include green technology?*

*Should we burn our non-recyclable plastic waste?*

*Should companies recycle the packaging they create?*

Children can design a poster to encourage their school or local community to encourage a green living.

**Please contact us to find out more about Magdalen Day Visits. Available throughout the year for both small and large groups**

01460 30144

[www.magdalenfarm.org.uk](http://www.magdalenfarm.org.uk)

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