

Vale & Downland Museum School Sessions



Preschool / EYFS

Singing Wantage!

Singing, signing and role-play through the galleries. Travel through the galleries and meet some of the people in Old Wantage. They will sing your favourite songs. Songs include 'Horsie, Horsie, Don't You Stop', 'The Wheels on the Tram', 'Wind the Bobbin Up', 'Polly Put the Kettle On', 'Wantage Wall is Falling Down' and 'Miss Molly had a Dolly'.

After singing in the galleries, 'funky finger' craft activities will be set up in the Barn.

Little Red Hen on the Lockinge Estate

Come and join Little Red Hen and share the story of her Surprise party. Follow her as she meets some of the characters from the Lockinge Estate. Learn about life in Victorian England by handling objects and spotting shapes, materials and colours all around the museum.

Key Stage 1

Changes in Living Memory

Learn how people lived between the 1940s and today. Looking at cooking, cleaning, shopping, dress and entertainment.

Wantage People

Explore the galleries to discover people from the past who are famous in the Vale for their passions and achievements. This can be bespoke if the class are focussing on a particular famous person e.g. Lord Wantage and his good friend Florence Nightingale.

Key Stage 2

Stone Age to Iron Age

Explore the changes in Britain between the Stone Ages, Bronze Age and Iron Age. Look at and compare evidence from each time period. Use your detective skills to match the mystery person. Make a Neolithic clay cremains pot.

Life in Roman Britain

Discover the changes in Britain after the Romans arrived. Investigate objects used in Roman Britain and learn about everyday life by playing some Roman board games. Make a large replica of a Roman coin in clay, adding a Latin inscription.

Anglo Saxons and King Alfred

Meet King Alfred and hear stories that were told about him. Look at objects in the galleries and our handling collection and investigate how the Anglo Saxons lived. Learn the ancient art of weaving and make your own woven bracelet.



Key Stage 2 cont.

Victorians in the Vale

How did the Victorians cook and wash? Look for evidence in our Downland Kitchen. Meet Lady Wantage and find out why the Lockinge Estate was so important in Victorian Wantage? Make a heliotrope to create your own optical illusion.

Wantage People Through the Ages

Meet John Ormond (apothecary), Paul Sylvester (tannery owner), Edward Davey (Victorian fossil collector), Martin Tupper (Victorian King Alfred enthusiast), Lady Wantage (owner of the Lockinge Estate) and Sir John Betjeman (poet).

Science – Year 3 Rocks, Fossils and Local Landscape

How were rocks and fossils formed? Learn about the different kinds of rocks in our local landscape. Get your hands on our geology collections and find out!

Bespoke Sessions

All existing sessions can be adapted or combined to meet your needs. Additional topics can focus on specific time periods or individuals:

The Lockinge Estate
Rich and Poor Wantage (bespoke timescale)
Metal Casting Through the Ages
Wheels Through the Ages – from Wheelwright to Williams
Williams Formula 1 in the Vale

Special Educational Needs

We are delighted to welcome children with different learning needs. These sessions can be bespoke to the needs of the children.

How to Book

Teachers and group leaders are welcome to look around the museum before planning a visit. We have a number of general information sheets about the museum and its exhibits available from the museum reception.

We charge £3 per child (minimum spend of £60). No charge is made for teachers/leaders or accompanying adults. We require an adult/child ratio of 1:5 for ages 4-7 and 1:10 ages 8-11. Payment may be made on arrival. Please make cheques payable to the 'Vale & Downland Museum Trust'. A receipt will be given for all payments.

Please note that organisers are advised to carry out their own risk assessment prior to the visit. Teachers/helpers are responsible for accompanying their groups at all times in the Museum. The Museum volunteers or staff cannot take responsibility for groups or individual children at any time.

Most areas, including toilets are accessible to wheelchair users.

The Museum Café can provide squash and/or biscuits. Please enquire when booking. There is an outdoor area available for picnics. A range of souvenirs are available to buy in the gift shop. Small groups of children with an adult are welcome to visit the shop.

Vale & Downland Museum

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Charity No. 1126993