

Spirit of the Wild

The Zoo That Comes To You

Dear Parent,

We are really looking forward to attending your child's school shortly, and thought that we would write to you to let you know a bit about what we will all be doing. Our names are Ben and Hannah and we own a small private zoo on the Essex/Hertfordshire border, from where we go into schools, nurseries and colleges, and work with youth groups, groups for those with special educational needs and disabilities, care homes and for private parties and events - anywhere where people would like to learn about wildlife and natural history. The content that will make up the workshops that we will be conducting in your child's school will cover and exceed everything set out in the National Curriculum regarding the natural world, to supplement and build on class work, and introduce new areas of knowledge, through practical experience. The practical experience will involve handling the wildlife that we bring with us from our zoo. All of the animals that we will be bringing with us are selected due to their suitability for the given age group, and are all hand reared and tame. All handling is done under our expert tuition, preceded by a health and safety briefing at the beginning, and reiteration that the children wash their hands at the end. Health and safety and the welfare of people and animals is paramount and we are fully insured and DBS checked (copies of our certificates are held on file by the school). We are also fully licensed under the Licensing of Activities Involving Animals (England) Regulations 2018, licence number 19/3987/PERFAN. The workshops are lots of fun and we keep the children spellbound with amazing creatures, some of which are totally unique to Spirit of the Wild. The practical experience also creates lasting memories which is great for learning and nurturing enthusiasm for conservation and the natural world.

During the workshops we will be covering each part of the national curriculum while looking at birds, invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles and mammals. If you child has any allergies, such as to fur or a nut allergy, please do let their teacher know. We will check with the class teacher prior to the start of your child's particular workshop in order to keep everyone safe and comfortable. In cases of fur allergies, we will invite your child to handle amphibians or reptiles. We operate a "nut free" policy for the duration of our visits and none will be present in any feed we bring for particular animals.

If your child may have a fear or unease about particular types of animals, for example spiders, please don't worry - we aren't in school to scare anyone!!! We are mindful and experienced with keeping everyone as happy and safe as can be, drawing on over 20 years of experience working in phobia therapy. Indeed, our workshops actually have a very definite positive effect in lessening or dispersing phobias. The children will all gain a wealth of new knowledge, confidence and have a wonderful time.

All interaction with the children will be conducted only when a school member of staff is also present.

Alongside our work in schools we also provide fun, animated and educational private parties. If you would like more information on these or any other aspects of our work, please do take a look at www.spiritofthewild.biz or have a look at our Facebook page Spirit of the Wild UK. All our educational and private work helps us to support the environmental and conservation work that we engage in, so a very big thank you to the school for inviting us to attend!!!

We are very much looking forward to seeing everyone!!!

Ben Pugh and Hannah Coote

