

2024



Primary & EYFS Sessions



paigntonzoo.org.uk

Registered charity number 300923

Free Mini-Sessions at an Enclosure

We now meet most groups at an enclosure for a 20-minute 'mini-session' – this format complements classroom learning back at school, directly linking to your chosen topic, using our live animals and natural exhibits to illustrate key points. The informal nature of these sessions encourages pupil observation and participation.

What is involved in an enclosure meet?

We will meet your class at an enclosure for 20 minutes. We will introduce the animals that can be seen on the day, and tell pupils a little about them. If you have chosen a topic, we can explain relevant aspects, using our wild species as examples. We will bring along props and artefacts to help illustrate key points and enhance pupil understanding.

Curriculum Links

We deliver sessions that link your classroom curriculum teaching to the experiences that your pupils are soaking up during their whole day here at the zoo. We will try to use the appropriate terminology and cover key points for curriculum learning, to ensure that these connections between classroom and zoo learning are clear.

A good example would be meeting an upper-KS2 class at our giraffes; when they are feeding on branches hung from a pole, pupils can see the way giraffes' long tongues and necks allow them to reach that other animals cannot reach. We can then show pupils a real giraffe vertebra, to talk about adaptations and changes over time – all whilst our beautiful giraffes continue to feed in the background.

Mini Session topics

EYFS

Understanding the world

KS1

Classification, Habitats, Food chains

KS2

Classification, Food chains Inc. predator prey, Life cycles, Adaptation

Location

We use pre-selected enclosures when meeting groups, as these offer suitable gathering spaces and a reliable chance of a good viewing opportunity. We select these to be as appropriate to the topic as possible. Our favourites are giraffes, giant tortoises, ape house, big cats, and lemurs – but we can use other sites around the zoo.

We are happy to try and meet at a certain enclosure if requested, subject to availability and weather.*

* In heavy wet weather, we will try to offer an indoor, artefact-based activity for 20 minutes.

Classroom Workshops

We recognise that some teachers may prefer an indoor session, rather than meeting at an enclosure. Our workshops are designed to offer interactive learning opportunities that cannot be replicated in the standard classroom. These take place in our specialist themed classrooms located in the Education Centre, utilising a variety of activities and artefacts.

Please note that workshops are not available May – July.

Cost

Workshops are suitable for up to 32 learners per session and are charged at an additional £30 per session.

KS1 Sessions (40 mins)

African Safari

Take a trip around the amazing continent of Africa to discover some of the habitats and unique creatures that live there and can be found at the zoo. Pupils will investigate artefacts connected with African species in this fun treasure hunt.

KS2 Sessions (40 mins)

Skeletons and Movement

Explore our fantastic skeleton collection, comparing animals with and without skeletons. This active workshops encourages pupils to identify and compare several types of animal skeletons, exploring possible ways of movement and special adaptations.

Conservation Conundrum

In this escape-room-style challenge, pupils will learn about palm oil, threats to wildlife, and how we can help. Can teams work together to solve the puzzles and save the wildlife?

