



EMERALD
ANT

BLUEBELL DAY OUT – INFO SHEET FOR TEACHERS

www.emeraldant.com/bluebell

Contact: Sarah Butterworth – sarah@emeraldant.com

Dear Teachers ~

On May 16th the Bluebell Project will be bringing you a fabulous Art & Music Trail in Wraxall Woods; The Bluebell Day Out. Children, teachers and families at Greenford and Sticklands will be invited to join artists and musicians in a celebration of spring. Children will re-visit some of their favourite Bluebell activities; they can decorate the Badger's Bedroom, build a stag from sticks, meet Foxy Glove and of course, 'Gi-Ant'. Families will be invited to picnic in the meadow after doing the trail.

In the lead up we have several exciting opportunities for your classes. We invite you to make hats to wear and raggedy deer to decorate the woods. And we will run zoom sessions to prepare children to play woodland music!

All information, and films will be put on our website as the “go-to” Bluebell place: www.emeraldant.com/bluebell If you have urgent queries please call me on 07811 950033 or if less urgent, email me at sarah@emeraldant.com

I look forward to seeing you on the day!

Sarah



ART

Kim's Art Zooms – March - April

Art therapist Kim Sibley will be running live art zooms, 1 per class in March and April. These are aimed at supporting co-operation, relaxation and concentration following lockdown. They will last 40 to 60 minutes. Emerald Ant will supply materials in a box. These will arrive in school giving you enough time to quarantine them. You may keep any remaining materials and we will collect the empty box. Headteachers will liaise with you over timings.

Sarah's Making Films – April

I will be providing 3 simple easy to follow workshop films which you will access from the Emerald Ant website from April 1st. Each will have a short introduction to the activity, and flora and fauna from myself and Nick Gray at Dorset Wildlife Trust. Please watch your film before you start the workshops and email /call me for any clarification.

You can stop and start the films as you like, so your making can be suited to the children's needs. I am also offering each class a live zoom session at a time of your choice, so we can address any making challenges.

The Emerald Ant Materials Box – Materials and tools for each make will be provided in a box. We hope the school will provide pencils. Please keep all our tools in there with left over materials. Throw away any scrap. Pass it on to the next

class when you have finished, there should be a 3 day gap before the next class starts, allowing for quarantine. We will provide spray but be aware that some materials may not function well sprayed.

Film 1 - Younger Years (Rec, Years 1 and 2) – Chiff Chaff Crowns –

Please complete by May 5th

Hats celebrating woodland birds; chiff chaff, woodpecker and crow. A film will be provided with easy-to-follow steps. I suggest this is done in the classroom over 4 afternoons depending on age: a session to cut out the pieces and decorate side one of the bird. Session 2 – decorate the other side of the bird. Session 3 – Make 2 simple flowers to go on the crown, and, Session 4 - make and attach the leaves. Full instructions will be provided as well as the live zoom. I suggest at least 3 adults to help with the youngest children. I will collect the hats and finalize them for wearing at the event so they are safe and comfortable. Children will collect their hats at the event, afterwards they will be able to keep them.

Watch the film at www.emerladant.com/bluebell





Film 2 - Spring Headbands or Garlands – Years 3 and 4 -

Please complete by May 5th

Paper flowers worn on a card headband or around necks as garlands.

We hope children will wear these or give them to parents or siblings for the event. Children will gain papercraft skills and increase their dexterity through using high quality crepe paper for sculpture; a real joy to use. The art can be done in the classroom over 2-3 afternoons.

The 3 flowers ('normal', 'bluebell' and 'foxglove') range from being very simple to make, to trickier. Children will make crepe paper leaves to go under the flowers. Full demonstrations will be given on the film and we will provide flower templates.

I will be available for a live zoom session for each class to support any challenges. Children will stick flowers on with pritt stick but all pieces should be stapled onto headbands before they leave the classroom, so they don't fall off. For the garlands we will provide giant needles and thread to put them together.

I will collect the artwork and assemble it for the event, adding elastic and ensuring staple ends are safely patched over.

Watch the film at www.emerladant.com/bluebell

Film 3 - A Herd of Raggedy Deer - Years 5 and 6 –

Please complete by May 5th

These deer will mimic the scruffy ones that frequent the Bluebell Woods. We hope to create around 45 of them (15 per class). They will measure 100 x 50cm roughly. Most of them will be stationed around the woods, but 10 will be part of a performance.

These be a lot of fun to make and a good exploration into new materials and techniques. They will have a go at distressing fabric and work collaboratively in pairs. Full instructions will be given on the film.

We need 10 deer with moving heads (like the orange one). This is a little more challenging to make, but it will be demonstrated in the film. We ask that you assign this job to 3 pairs of arty children in your class.

This is a whole day workshop, and it is MESSY!!! There will be pre-mixed PVA and at the end of the day, Brushos paints provided in sprinklers, (they don't need mixing with water). We'll provide some gloves in case you need them. Please use the school hall or an outside space on a calm sunny day. We will provide you with a tarpaulin and big boards to work on. The deer are made from hessian and must be kept flat until dry. Then I will collect them and assemble them in the workshop.

Watch the film at www.emeraldant.com/bluebell



MUSIC

Ellie's Haiku project

As an opening to the musical elements of the Bluebell Day Out, children will be encouraged to create Bluebell Haiku. Ellie will provide examples of Haiku, explain how the activity will enrich the Bluebell Day Out, and guide children in how to produce their Haiku. According to age and ability, words or phrases will be collected by children. Children will develop an awareness of the rhythm of words and phrases. All completed Haiku will be collated to be installed in the Haiku tree for the event. Ellie suggests possibly 2 x 30 minute sessions per class for this activity.

Ellie's Musical Zooms

Ellie will run three live zoom sessions per class introducing musical elements of the Bluebell Trail. Each class will receive:

Zoom 1: How to make your bell instrument. 30 minutes.

Ellie will provide resources and instructions to create simple bell percussion instruments. Children might be requested to bring items such as a stick they have chosen from a walk or their garden. Each child will make their own instrument. This activity will be simple and last 30 minutes, the activity will be designed to be done in the classroom at a table or desk. Ellie will direct the session and teachers will be requested to support/ supervise the activity in class. As an extension of this activity, children can decorate their instrument or make further instruments at home, Ellie will provide ideas and suggestions.

Zoom 2: Fun musical exercises to develop concentration and listening. 30 minutes

Each class will have a 30 minute fun session with exercises focusing on listening, concentration and coordination. It would be good to do this in a space such as the gym, or in a classroom where children can stand in a semi-circle facing the camera.

Zoom 3: Preparing for the Bluebell day out. 30 minutes

Children will be introduced to different Bluebell instruments that will be installed in the woodland setting for the event. Following whatever covid parameters that are in place as we approach the event, children will have the opportunity to listen to contrasting sounds and experiment with the effects that they can create. Ellie will provide sanitised resources with clear instructions ahead of the zoom session.

Teachers will need to set up the session in a very basic way, creating a suitable space for instrumental resources to be placed. No resource will be unusually large, all guidance will be provided well in advance. Resources will be chosen for their ease of use regarding covid restrictions.

Children will understand the importance of their personal musical contribution to the performances in the woodland on the Bluebell Day Out, including the highlight performance in the Woodland Concert Hall. The emphasis will be upon listening and experiencing the unique soundscape of the environment, the performance experience will be completely accessible for all levels of ability and age.

Professional Musicians will introduce themselves and their instruments.

Each professional musician performing for the 'Bluebell Day Out' will introduce themselves in a 5 minute video. The video can be played anytime in the school day and of course repeated should children and staff wish. Each video will

present the instrument, kind of music, and a personal introduction from the musician. There will be a series of up to 10 videos in this format.

The Event

Please, BIG UP the event as much as possible! The purpose of each activity needs to be clear to the children that it is for the event.

We will be sending information out to parents via school offices, but we will probably ask teachers to place reminders in book bags nearer the time (in May), and support families less internet-savvy to book onto the event.

