



ACTIVITIES AT KENCH HILL

The following site-based activities and local trips are available all year. We constantly aim to improve and develop new activities. We endeavour to cater for the learning needs of your group and can devise activities to support your requirements. Please discuss your visit with us in advance so we can tailor a programme from which your group will gain most benefit, whether curricular and/or social. It is important to arrange a preliminary visit to view the Centre and its facilities. We are available most days, including some weekends.

Most site-based activities work best with groups of 10-12, but some are suitable for whole class sessions. Groups rotate around the different activities during the day, so everyone gets an opportunity to try all the choices on offer – 2-3 different activities run simultaneously. Eg choose three 1-hour activities for up to 30 pupils. All are designed so children can safely develop the knowledge, skill and understanding required by the school curriculum at **Key Stage 2**, through experiential, child-centred learning. Some activities are also suitable or can be adapted for **Key Stage 3**. For Key Stage 4 and above please contact the Centre to discuss your requirements. Visiting staff will be expected to teach or assist with all activities, for which induction is provided.

We incorporate cross-curricular themes in ESD (Education for Sustainable Development), PHSE and Citizenship, into all aspects of a trip. Healthy eating and sustainability are important elements of the whole Kench Hill experience. Outcomes fit Every Child Matters framework – ***Be Healthy, Stay Safe, Enjoy & Achieve, Make a Positive Contribution.***

New for 2010 Plan with us a programme to support a thematic curriculum eg Water (Rivers & Seas), Interdependence, Living Things in their Environment, Keeping Healthy.

Our minibus can take groups of 14 + 2 adults for trips to local villages, beaches and habitats, whilst the rest of the class work at Kench Hill. This is an economical option for groups on a tight budget who cannot afford an additional coach trip. Minibus is charged at 75p per mile.

Contents: - Listed by main curriculum focus, with cross-curricular links

1. Art/Design Technology
2. History
3. Geography
4. Science
5. Cross-curricular activities
6. Physical education
7. Trips away from Kench Hill

'I never knew learning could be so much fun!'

KEY

- * Suitable for wheelchair access
- ☂ Suitable for wet weather
- KS3 Suitable for KS3+

“Tell me and I forget – show me and I may remember – let me do it and I learn”

1. ART/DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

Bread making – Past and present * ☔ KS2



Grind wheat using pupil energy with Kench Hill's purpose-made millstone. Always a favourite, this is now even more popular as the tasty wholemeal bread rolls are made hygienically to eat as an evening snack. Can link to historical study eg Victorians or World War 2, or to develop healthy eating in PSHE. Enhance the topic with a visit to a local windmill or Rare Breeds Centre (additional charge).



Group size: Max 12 Time: 1 hr Wednesdays only Cost: £5 per class

Science: Materials and their properties; Unit 6 Micro-organisms **Maths:** Measurement
DT: Unit 5B Bread; Working with Tools and Equipment. **PSHE:** Healthy lifestyle
Links with: Brick-making, Cookery

Cookery - Food for thought * ☔ KS2/3 **NEW!!**

Help prepare your own meal! Learn to make tasty recipes using fresh ingredients eg fruit salad, pizzas, biscuits. Work with our staff to learn where food comes from, how it grows and to cook a nutritious meal. Even the fussiest eaters will try their own fare. Choose as a group activity or as free time option for the keen ones. Link with Gardening. **Group size:**

Max 10 Time: 1 hr Cost: £5 per class



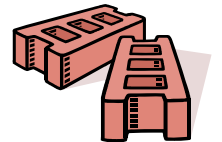
Science: Materials and their properties; Green plants; Humans (Nutrition and Health)
DT: Working with Tools and Equipment **Maths:** Measurement **PSHE:** Healthy lifestyle; Hygiene
Links with: Gardening

Clay Play and Brick-making * ☔ KS2

Dig out raw clay from where it has been underground for thousands of years for transformation and metamorphosis in the hands of a child. Squidging, squashing, shaping, teasing into gargoyle faces, creatures, sculptures or simply bricks which can be left to dry naturally or fired. (Firing takes several weeks so bricks will have to be delivered to school at a later date.) Learn how processes of erosion have shaped the land and compare with physical processes in bread-making.

Group size: Bricks - 10; Clay-play - 30 Time: 1hr

Cost: Free or £1.50 each fired in the kiln.



Art: Investigating and making **DT:** Working with Tools, Materials and Equipment **Science:** Changing materials
Geography: Water and its effects on landscapes

Environmental Art * KS2/3

Heard of Andy Goldsworthy? Children will be inspired to use found natural materials– leaves, twigs, berries, clay, stones - to create pictures, abstract or on a theme like "wildlife". Close observational drawing focuses concentration and improves skills, stimulated by the beautiful flowers or buildings at Kench Hill. Make a mural using large rolls of paper.



Group size: 10- 30 Time: 45 mins+ Cost: Free

Art: Investigating and making

Mask Making * ☔ KS2/3

Make and wear masks to add atmosphere to special occasions for drama, or for display. Offers an opportunity to experiment with different materials (natural and recycled) and techniques such as papier mache, creating masks according to children's own designs. Use natural found materials for stunning effects.

Group size: Max: 30 Time: 1 hr + Cost: 20p per child

Art: Investigating and making **DT:** Working with materials



Natural Dyeing, Spinning & Weaving * KS2/3

Having fleeced the Kench Hill sheep, investigate the properties of wool (including the smell!) and the changes to be made by washing, natural dyeing, carding, spinning and weaving. Incorporate with **felt-making and tie-dyeing** for a whole day of art, craft, design and scientific investigation. Children can continue weaving as a free time activity in the evenings to take home a bookmark or small piece of woven material.



Group size: Max 12 Time 1hr+ Cost: 50p per child for 3 activities.

DT: Working with Tools and Materials;

Science: Materials & their Properties, Investigative skills

Model Making and Woodwork * KS2/3

NEW!!

Model making allows children to be creative and use many different materials, mostly from recycled sources. Hand-tools and equipment are available in the Barn for woodwork DT activity eg design and construct bird-feeders, nest-boxes or model boats to sail on the ponds. Link to observations and research eg about birds, or with shelter-building. Ideal as a small group activity. We need at least 2 weeks notice for woodwork, you can bring your own timber and designs.



Group size: Max. 12 Time: 1.5-2.5 hours + Cost: Woodwork£1 each, Model-making 50p each.

DT: Developing, planning and communicating ideas; Working with tools, equipment, materials; Evaluating

Science: Living things in their environment (Adaptation, Feeding relationships)

Paper Making * KS2/3



Discover how paper is made with plant fibres, water and lots of energy. Recycle waste paper, experiment and decorate with different materials. Create individually designed hand-made paper or mould into shapes for model-making.

Group size: Max 12 Time: 40-50 mins Cost: Free

DT: Working with tools, equipment & materials; Knowledge & understanding of materials

Science: Materials & their properties

ESD: Recycling



Photograms * KS2/3

Collect leaves, feathers, sand and arrange on paper. Use the dark room to develop and fix the photogram for a visually dramatic result. A very popular activity which provides excellent display materials. Combine with another short activity eg junk art.

Group size: Max 6/12 Time: 30 mins/1hr Cost: 50p per child



DT: Working with tools, equipment and materials: Knowledge & understanding of materials

Art: Investigating and making

Science: Physical processes - Light

Shelter Building * KS2/3

Making shelters is an inventive fun activity which is ideal for small group work. It covers Year 6 Scheme of work for DT and is also an excellent team-building activity ideal for PSHE. Using a variety of materials the children will plan their design and then create it. Finally they will carry out tests and discover possible improvements. It can lead to further in-depth investigation of built structures.

Group size: Max 12 Time 45 mins+ Cost: Free



DT: Unit 6A Shelters, Working with Materials

PSHE: Developing confidence; Developing good relationships

NEW! Mosaic Tiles * ☔ KS2/3

Design and create an individual decorative mosaic tile to take home, or to piece together into a larger group project. The activity takes place in 2 stages, to allow for grouting and drying time.

Group size: Max 12 Time 1hr + Cost: 50p per child

DT: Working with Materials



2. HISTORY

The Victorians * ☔ KS2

Sit around the Victorian fireplace in the Barn to discover what it was like to live then. A large collection of artefacts lead to study using reference books and ICT. Initiate lively discussions about life as a Victorian child, impact of industrialisation, inventions etc. For the full experience spend a day as a Victorian child, dressing up with formal lessons (and enjoyable activities like photograms!) Link with brick- or bread-making to compare past and present technologies. Read an excerpt from 'The Water Babies' to stimulate enquiry. Visit a local museum (Woodchurch or Tenterden) to further explore rural life, or Smuggler's Caves at Hastings.



Group size: Any Time: 1 hr+ Cost: Free

History: Knowledge and understanding, Enquiry, Victorian Britain; Unit 11 Life for children in Victorian times
English Speaking and listening

The Second World War/ Britain since 1930 * ☔ KS2

By the sandbags in the Barn discover the impact of the Blitz on London children. Discuss evacuation and staying in the country without family. Clothes, gas masks, ration books help re-create events of the time. Look at photographs, study documents to help find out about life at Kench Hill during the war.



For the full experience spend a day as evacuees - re-create an air raid and help prepare rationed meals using authentic recipes. Enjoy an old-fashioned knees-up at the end the day with a sing-song and dance music of the era. Link with a visit to Dover Castle's Hellfire Corner or a local walk to look inside a pill-box (gun placement). Local museums also offer lots of evidence of changes since 1930 eg Brenzett Aeronautical Museum, Woodchurch Museum.

Group size: Any Time 1 hr+ Cost: Free

History: Knowledge and understanding, Enquiry, Britain since 1930; Unit 9 Children in Second World War
English Speaking and listening

The Kench Hill time line and the Thatched House * ☔ KS2

Use the Time Line and artefacts in the Barn to set historical events into place and develop chronological understanding. Kench Hill has a fascinating history which can be traced back 1000 years in reality (and further in our imagination). A great stimulus for interesting drama enactments.



At night in the lamplight around a small fire wonderful stories can be told of heroes, heroines and far away places...

Group size: Any Time: 1 hr Cost: Free

History: Chronological understanding; Enquiry

Local Historical sites – See section on Trips for details

- Woodchurch Museum (Rural life and history) & Windmill
- Tenterden Museum (Local history, Victorian life)
- Dover Castle (Britain since 1930, Romans, Anglo-Saxons, Normans, WW2)
- Bodiam Castle (Normans, Mediaeval times, Invaders and Settlers)
- Appledore Village and Church (Vikings, Anglo-Saxons)
- Rye (General local history) and Camber Castle (Tudors)
- Hever Castle (Tudors)
- Historic Dockyard, Chatham (WW2, Victorians)
- Brenzett Aero Museum (WW2, led by veterans & enthusiasts) **RECOMMENDED**

3. GEOGRAPHY

Rocks, soils and fossils * KS2/3

All the equipment necessary and a variety of soils, rocks and fossils for children to use in real investigative science. Trips away from Kench Hill (clay) can provide comparative soil and rock types, such as Dover (chalk), Hastings (sandstone), or Camber (sand). Link to an art activity eg sand pictures or clay play.

Group size: 10+ **Time:** 1 hr **Cost:** Free

Geography: KS3 units on weathering **Art:** Using materials
Science: Materials and their properties- Grouping, Changing; Unit 3d Rocks & soils



Weather KS2

Using the Centre's excellent weather station linked to a computer, children can download recorded information and create graphs showing wind speed, direction, rainfall, temperature and pressure. More traditional apparatus like rain gauges and maximum and minimum thermometers can also be used.



Group size: Any **Time:** 10 mins+ daily. **Cost:** Free

Geography: Enquiry and skills; KS3 units on weather and climate
Science: Obtaining and presenting evidence **ICT:** Finding things out

Orienteering 1 (Compass Skills) * KS2/3

Orienteering 2 (Map reading & Co-ordinates) * **NEW!!**



Learn to use a compass to discover hidden clues in Kench Hill's garden. Accuracy and team work are essential - kids love the challenge and the chance to learn a useful new skill. **NEW!!** Extend the activity using our new orienteering trails, learning how to read maps accurately. Develop further with exciting geocache exploration in local woodlands.

Group size: 8-12 **Time:** 1 hour **Cost:** Free

Geography: Skills **Maths:** Shape, space and measures **PE:** Outdoor and adventurous activity

Village study * KS3

Go by mini-bus to local village settlements of Woodchurch or Appledore, or larger towns of Rye and Tenterden. Investigate similarities and differences between here and home.

Group size: Max 15 **Time:** 2 hrs **Cost:** 75p per mile by minibus (£5-10 per group).

Geography: Enquiry and skills; Places; Environmental change
 Unit 12: Should the High St be closed to traffic? (Rye)
 Unit 13: A contrasting UK locality – Village study (Woodchurch or Tenterden)



Local Walks * KS2/3

Always fun and memorable, often a first contact with a natural environment. Long or short, through river valley and farm, for map work or collecting, we can tailor a walk to your needs. Follow the stream to Cow Poo Lane, or a circular route from Tenterden's steam railway, or through Appledore village and Royal Military Canal. Heron Wood is spectacular in Spring, awesome in Autumn, ideal for a multi-sensory woodland adventure.



Ideal as an introduction on Monday afternoon or a more leisurely pace during the week. Raincoats, walking sticks and wellies available for all sizes!

* *With prior arrangement we can choose a suitable route for wheelchair users.*

Group size: 15-30 **Time: 2 hrs – whole day** **Cost: Free**

Geography: Enquiry; Skills; Unit 14 Investigating rivers; Themes: Local settlements, fieldwork investigations

Science: Living things in their environment

PE: Outdoor and adventurous activities

See also section on Trips eg to Camber Sands, Ecclesbourne Glen.

4. SCIENCE

Pond-Dipping & Bug hunts * KS2/3

Consolidate learning on adaptation, food chains, life cycles, interdependence and sustainable development by searching for animals from the new wheelchair-accessible platforms in our large ponds, hedgerows and log piles. Use observational skills to develop scientific enquiry, ask questions and set up real investigations. Use our microscopes, tanks and other equipment to devise experiments to discover more about animal behaviour or test an hypothesis.



Group size: 8-12 **Time: 1 hr+** **Cost: Free**

Science: Life processes and living things; Unit 4B Habitats; Unit 5 Enquiry in an environmental context

Trees * KS2/3

Wood is good! Trees provide a source of investigation all year round. Kench Hill's 2 acre garden has a variety of evergreen and broad-leaved species. Develop scientific skills through close observation; study variation, classification, seed dispersal and reproduction. Investigate how trees affect the environment. Make maths fun by measuring and estimating. Make rubbings or use autumn leaves for spectacular environmental art. Visit local woods to explore woodland habitats and discover clues about the inhabitants.



Group size: 8-12 **Time: 1 hr+** **Cost: Free (minibus trips extra)**

Science: Living things in environment - Adaptation, Interdependence; Green plants; Variation & Classification

Maths: Measures, problem-solving **Art and Design**

Wonderful wool * KS2/3

Wool is a versatile material with interesting properties to explore – and we have a plentiful supply from our own sheep. A variety of investigations are possible to run alongside craft activities (See Natural dyeing etc.) Test the efficacy of different detergents by how well they wash wool, using proper scientific methods of fair testing etc. Compare and predict the results of using a variety of dyes to colour the washed wool. Test its strength, elasticity and insulating properties.



Group size: 8-12 **Time: 1 hr+** **Cost: Free**

Science: Investigative skills; Materials and their properties; Adaptation (mammals); Unit 4c Keeping warm

Eggciting Eggsperiments * KS2/3

Use our own free-range eggs to conduct a variety of scientific investigations. Examine a raw egg and identify the different parts, relating to life cycles of birds. Test the strength of an egg shell. What happens when an egg is heated or beaten? How can you get an egg inside a bottle?

Group size: 12 Time: 1 hr Cost: £3 per class

Science: Investigative skills; Materials and their properties; Forces; Life Processes – Life Cycles



Fascinating flour * KS2/3

Grind your own flour from wheat and use for a variety of experiments, combined with kitchen chemical such as bicarbonate of soda. Investigate the properties of solutions, test dissolving, how to make glue etc. Link to cooking and bread-making activities in the kitchen.

Group size: 12 Time: 1 hr Cost: £3 per class

Science: Investigative skills; Materials and their properties (Changing materials, Separating mixtures)



Go Batty! * KS2/3



We DO have bats in the belfry at Kench Hill! When the sun goes down the bats come out in search of prey. What do they eat? Where do they live? How do they communicate? Take a night walk round the Centre and watch these fascinating mammals perform an acrobatic display in search of dinner. Use a bat detector to hear them echolocate. Learn about life cycles, interdependence and food chains.

Apr – Oct only (bats hibernate!) Group size: Any Time: 1 hr at dusk – times vary. Cost: Free

Science: Learn about Mammals, Classification, Food chains

Astronomy * KS2

Take advantage of frequent clear, dark skies using naked eye and binoculars to observe a galaxy of glittering stars rarely seen in a light-polluted city. Spot the Milky Way overhead, observe the passage of the moon and lengthening of shadows. Be astounded at the vastness of Space. Planetary bodies can be used in a Classification activity (suitable for wet weather/day-time). Combine with a bat walk in summer or a night walk at all times..

Group size: Any Time: 30 mins+ Cost: Free

Science: Earth and beyond; Classification



Meet the Bunny (Animal adaptations) * KS2/3

One of the most popular sessions. Learn about adaptations for survival and life processes by getting close to living and stuffed animals. Our friendly pets are a wonderful stimulus for children who rarely get a close encounter with real animals, and a variety of stuffed specimens provides an opportunity to study form and function in detail, for science and/or observational art activities.

Group size: 10+ Time: 1hr+ Cost: Free

Science: Life Processes and Living Things; Living Things in their Environment; Classification



Badgers and Birds on TV

At night watch the badgers emerge from their sets from the comfort of the lounge, as live camera images are sent to the TV. During the day see the many birds feeding at our feeders, rearing chicks in the nest-box, or roosting at night. Can also be viewed on our website www.kenchill.co.uk

Chickens * KS2



The daily feeding of Kench Hill's full-time residents is a popular morning ritual, teaching care and respect for living things, as well as a living demonstration of food chains, life cycles and recycling!

Group size: Max 10 Time: 10 mins after breakfast Cost: Free

NEW!! Link to investigative science by doing some fun 'Egg'speriments! Ask for details.

Investigations

Set up additional scientific investigations based on real questions, which can be studied over the whole week. Devise experiments stimulated by enquiry from other activities. We constantly endeavour to devise new and exciting seasonal activities.

We can tailor a programme to support your classroom planning, but a few suggestions are given below:

- **Bread-making** - leads to work on yeast and micro-organisms, including exploration of compost heaps.
- **Clay play** - leads to investigations comparing properties of different soils and rocks
- **Cold weather** - provides resources to explore the properties of water as it freezes, using snow and ice, measuring temperature, shapes, patterns. How do fish survive in a frozen pond?
- **Bird-feeders** - test food preferences of our garden birds. Toast or cornflakes?
- Days of healthy exercise could stimulate an investigation into human biology – pulse rates etc.

5. CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Kench Hill Trails * KS2

In the grounds, search for and identify a variety of features, shapes and unusual views. A pleasant small group activity suitable for the last morning as a competition. The inside trail, ideal for bad weather, concentrates on the architecture and design found in a Georgian mansion with a varied history, including being a hospital. Observation and deduction skills are tested on features the children "see" everyday at Kench Hill.

Group size: Any Time: 1 hr Cost: Free

Earth Education * KS2

A multi-sensory approach in environmental education encourages children to use all their senses to observe, and foster respect and understanding of the natural world. Blindfold Walks, Smelly Cocktails, Nature's Palettes, Micro-Nature trails, Magic Spots, Munch Monitors – a wide range of activities to suit different learning styles. Reinforces learning in Science ie concepts such as interdependence, adaptation and feeding relationships. Can be done as a whole day in a local habitat eg woodlands, or individual activities at any time of the day.

Group size: Any: 30 mins-whole day Cost: Free

Gardening * KS2

Join our staff in our organic kitchen and herb gardens. Children love digging and finding creepy-crawlies in the soil, as well as harvesting (and tasting) the wholesome produce. There are always tasks to do, whatever the season or weather – weeding, sowing, picking, digging, potting. Link with Cookery -use the fresh fruit and vegetables to help prepare a nutritious meal for the whole class. Suitable as an optional activity for keen green-fingers, or the whole group, to link with science work on Green Plants.

Group size: 8-12 Time: 1 hr+ Cost: Free



Fishing * KS2/3

Use our equipment to learn how to angle safely and responsibly. Fish the carp and rudd from our ponds. Please note that this activity is not taught by Kench Hill staff and is dependent on having an expert amongst your own teaching staff. Perfect for long summer evenings. Stimulate scientific enquiry by dissection - You can even cook the catch and taste it!

Group size: 4 at a time (Summer/Autumn only) Time: 10 minutes + Cost: Free



Coming soon....

Sustainable development

Get involved in recycling, water usage and energy efficiency. Why do we plan to build our new classroom from straw bales? Our new classroom will be energy efficient, with sustainable heating from the ground using a geothermal pump, electricity from solar panels and fully insulated construction using local materials. You may even be able to get involved with its construction.

6. PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Swimming *



Great fun, good exercise and a relaxing (and tiring!) start to the week. Tenterden Leisure Centre's indoor pool can be reached by foot or minibus and features a wave machine, Jacuzzi and slide, great fun both for swimmers and non-swimmers. There is a playground adjacent to the pool. Monday afternoons only

Group: Whole class Time: 2 hrs Cost: £2.40 each, 1 free adult swim per 10.

PE: Swimming activities

Outdoor and adventurous activity

- **NEW** A **linear trail** has been installed in the field to test all levels of physical fitness.
- See **Orienteering** under Geography activities.
- **Local walks** can provide a real physical challenge, especially for city kids who have never had the chance to scramble on muddy slopes, splash in streams and puddles or stretch their legs on a fun walk. Plenty of fresh air and healthy exercise guaranteed, whatever the weather!



NEW! Archery, high wire, abseil, climbing * KS2/3

Available at Kent County Council's activity centre, Cranbrook (30 minutes drive). Fully approved facility with qualified staff. Suitable for groups or a whole class.

Group: Any Time: 3hrs+ Cost: £4 per pupil/hour. Plus minibus

PE: Adventurous activities **PSHE**



Team-building games * KS2/3

We can provide all the resources needed to develop physical and social skills. Why not make team-building and PSHE outcomes the focus of your week?

- **Parachute games** are great for learning how to work together as well as developing co-ordination. **Environmental games** are usually non-competitive, an excellent way to reinforce concepts in science as well as improving social skills.
- **Team Game challenge** is a set of 4-6 x 10-minute physical and problem-solving games eg The Snake Pit, The Tyre Challenge, which groups of 6-7 children complete in rotation, earning points as they go. Which team will be the ultimate winner?

Sports day *

Why not organise a half-day of team sports with a Kench Hill theme, to suit all abilities and aptitudes?



Welly-throwing, egg & spoon, wheelbarrow races, fun relay races – we have all the equipment you need. Perfect way to end the week! Alternatively, in wet weather indoor team sports can be arranged, making use of our equipment such as table tennis, table football and skittles.

Group: Any Time: 1hr + Cost: Free

PE: Athletic activities

Playing Field *

Children love playing **football** and **cricket** on the clean, green grass in the playing field, once the rabbits have hopped off! For the more serious teams it may be possible to organise a friendly match with one of our local school sides. The 5-side football court and **basketball** courts are always in demand and can also be used in free time or for structured games.

We also have equipment available for **badminton, tennis, volleyball**, simple **croquet** and **boules**.

Football & netball matches

We can organise competitive games against the local junior school to challenge any level of team – beginners to champions, or even a coaching session for potential netball players. 7 up to 11-side soccer and High Fives netball rules will apply. Mon, Tues or Thurs at 3pm – can be combined with swimming or on-site days.

PE: Games activities

