

Autumn / Winter
2018

Teacher's forum

The Edinburgh teachers' Outdoor Learning forum meets at least 4 times each year to share news & ideas and create resources – everyone is very welcome.

Next meeting:

13 November, 4.30 – 6pm
Bangholm Outdoor Centre

Lead Teacher in Outdoor Learning

After a hiatus of several years a refreshed and updated **Lead Teacher in Outdoor Learning** course is now being offered.

The course takes place over on a full day Friday (23 Nov), two Friday afternoons and a Friday afternoon/Saturday residential.

Course code CF2675 – places are limited so book soon!

Outdoor Learning News



Outdoor Challenges for all

In June 11 teams took part in our annual adventure race across the city; the **Convenor's Challenge**. Now in its 4th year, teams of 4 senior pupils and staff member scored points on adventure activities such as paddling, mountain biking and orienteering, and tweeting from the City's seven summits. This year was our most closely contested so far – Boroughmuir narrowly taking a well-deserved victory!



Boroughmuir's winning team in action on the canal and with their trophy

In February we held a consultation with Primary teachers on creating an equivalent event for Primary pupils, following which we started planning the **Outdoor Learning Challenge**. Six months later and 40 schools signed up we were all set to deliver over 2 days! An amber weather warning for first day planned sadly made it a clear decision to cancel. Thankfully the winds dropped (a bit!) and on Thursday 20th September almost 900 pupils from 20 schools came to Holyrood Park to take part in our first ever Outdoor Learning Challenge.



P6 pupils enjoy our first ever Outdoor Learning Challenge day

Loose Parts in a Primary Setting

Loose parts are an excellent way to support imaginative and creative play and enhance your school grounds.

Free training courses on using loose parts are run at Bangholm Outdoor Centre.

Next course: 14 December.

Please email for details.

New Group Leader Training – Practical

We have expanded our Group Leader Training with the addition of an optional Practical session. GLT – Theory remains as mandatory training for those leading category 4 excursions, and from February onwards for Cat 3 excursions.

GLT - Practical is kept to a small group size and using the local area we explore modes of supervision, what to take along and various incident scenarios.

Course code is CF2484; next session is 16 November.

Curriculum for Excellence states that all children and young people should be able to participate in a range of planned, progressive and creative outdoor learning experiences that are part of the curriculum, and that these should be frequent, enjoyable and challenging and take place throughout a child's school career.



Our aims for the Outdoor Learning Challenge were to provide schools with ideas and stimulus to take the curriculum outdoors in their own grounds or local area, and to showcase organisations across the City that provide outdoor learning opportunities.



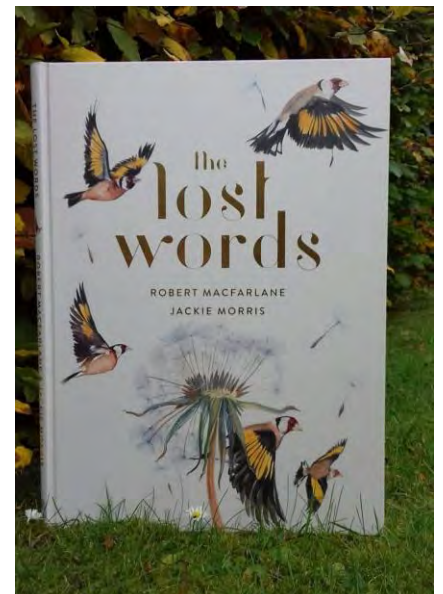
We are in the process of collating a 'directory' of the organisations who took part and their session plans to share with teachers.

Planning for **Outdoor Learning Challenge 2019** has already begun and will include an after-school session just for staff at the end of the first day

Lost Words now in every school

Thanks to a hugely successful crowdfunding campaign, a copy of this beautiful book was bought for every school in Scotland; Edinburgh schools received their copies in the summer. This is a jewel of a book for stimulating art and creative writing with your class and a wealth of resources exist to support its use. Find these on the John Muir Trust's webpages [here](#).

Can't find your school's copy? Get in touch and we can help track it down.



Green Team offer

The Green Team have funding available to work with schools in Edinburgh to support them with outdoor learning. This could be through John Muir Award, JASS, nurture groups etc. They can also provide CPD training.

To discuss your requirements, contact:
education@greenteam.org.uk

CEC Outdoor Learning Team

Our team offers bespoke CPD sessions to support outdoor learning in your school

Get in touch

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New resource for teachers by teachers

This fantastic resource has been produced by the **Edinburgh teachers' Outdoor Learning forum**.



The resource was shared with all Primary Heads in early October and will be available for download on our soon-to-be-launched new website; www.experienceoutdoors.org.uk.

Through the Teacher's Outdoor Learning forum, we are currently working on a hyperlinked version which will provide extra resources and support for each of the activities.

Learning in Local Greenspace project

Scottish Natural Heritage's project runs until 2020, and aims to support 100 schools in the most deprived communities in Scotland to use the outdoors to raise engagement and attainment. SNH have produced resources and a toolkit to use local greenspace which can be accessed free on their [website](http://www.snh.gov.uk). Free training to support the project is available from **Grounds for Learning** – see [here](http://www.groundsforlearning.org.uk) for details.

Next issue - Spring term

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