SOUTH DOWNS
NATIONAL PARK

South Downs
National Park Authority

# Our South Downs Education Network

learning@southdowns.gov.uk

# The network offers…

Curriculum-linked sessions and activities that cover:

- Food and farming
- Wildlife and habitats
- Human history
- Art and literature
- Cultural heritage
- Health and wellbeing
- Adventurous activities
- *Residential trips*

*(not currently possible)*

# Learning Outside the Classroom

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Pupils (and staff) can benefit from:

- new environments and perspectives
- exposure to a wider range of career opportunities
- dynamic learning environments
- exposure to nature
- hands-on learning opportunities

# Making the most of it

## Where to go for more information

- South Downs National Park website
  - www.southdowns.gov.uk/learning
  - learning@southdowns.gov.uk

- Outdoor Education Advisors at your local education authority
  - Brighton & Hove, Paula.Greening@brighton-hove.gov.uk, 01273 293642
  - East Sussex, Leanne.Bentley@eastsussex.gov.uk, 01273 482522
  - West Sussex, Simon.Whitmore@westsussex.gov.uk, 03302 227009
  - Hampshire, outdoor.education@hants.gov.uk, 01962 876218

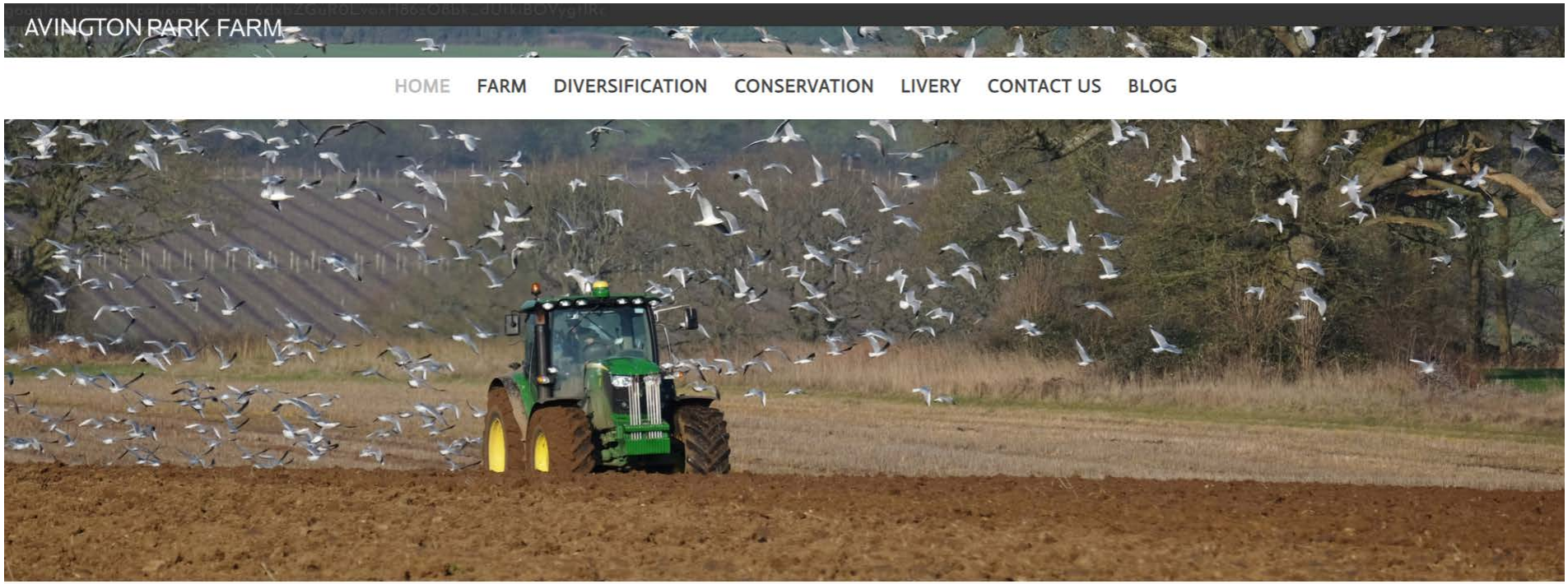
# Session aims

- Increased understanding of how food is produced and grown on the farm
- Increased appreciation of how farming is carefully managed to care for the environment
- Increased awareness of how farming and the countryside can enhance teaching across the school curriculum

# What is LEAF Education?

www.leafuk.org/education/for-teachers

# Farming in action




www.parkfarmavington.co.uk

# Farming in your school grounds

The value of learning outside the classroom has been recognised by the Department for Education (DfE) with the publication of the Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto, which opens with the following statement: “We believe that every young person should experience the world beyond the classroom as an essential part of learning and personal development, whatever their age, ability or circumstances.”

# Farming in your school grounds

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Federation of CITY FARMS & COMMUNITY GARDENS

School Farms Network

Resource Pack

There is a strong case for using school grounds to re-engage young people with the natural world and its processes, giving young people a greater understanding of plants and animals while importantly improving motivation, behaviour, attitudes and values, and raising achievement as an essential part of a strategy for school improvement….

- Improve academic achievement
- Improve young people's attitudes to learning
- Make learning more engaging and relevant to young people
- Reduce behaviour problems and improve attendance
- Stimulate, inspire and improve motivation
- Develop active citizens and stewards of the environment
- Nurture creativity

# Learning opportunities

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## Cooking and Nutrition

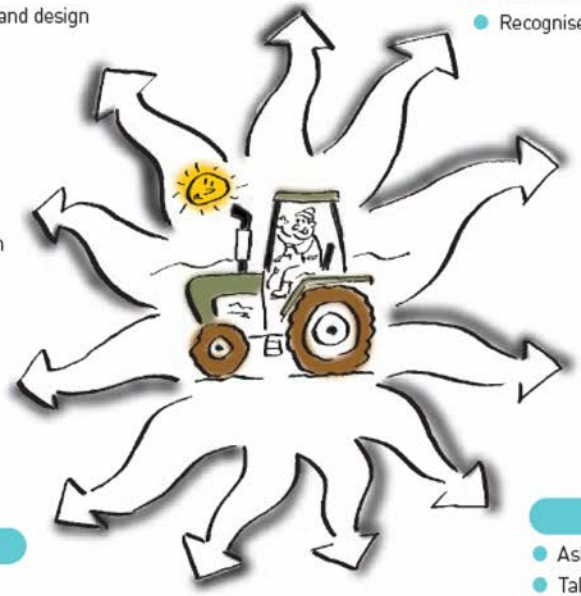
- Understand and apply the principles of a healthy and varied diet
- Prepare and cook a variety of dishes using a range of cooking techniques
- Understand seasonality, know where and how a variety of ingredients are grown, reared, caught and processed

## Art & Design

- Record from experience
- Collect visual and other information
- Design and make images and artefacts
- Investigate art, craft and design in the locality

## Geography

- Observe and record
- Use fieldwork skills
- Recognise changes in the environment
- Collect and record evidence
- Recognise physical and human processes



## ICT

- Find, classify and check information
- Think about content and quality when communicating information
- Investigate and compare uses of ICT

## History

- How to find out about the past
- Ask and answer questions about the past
- Investigate how an aspect in the local area has changed

## Drama

- Create, adapt and sustain different roles
- Use character, action and narrative
- Use dramatic techniques

## PE

- Follow trails in unfamiliar environments
- Physical activity is good for health and well-being

## English

- Ask questions to clarify understanding
- Take different views into account
- Qualify or justify what you think
- Review and comment

## PSHE & Citizenship

- Talk about and explain opinions, views and issues
- The range of jobs carried out
- Recognise the role of voluntary, community and pressure groups
- What makes a healthy lifestyle

## Mathematics

- Select and use handling data skills
- Select and use appropriate calculation skills
- Interpret tables, lists and charts

## Science

- Life processes common to plants
- Life processes in familiar animals and plants
- Protection of living things and the environment
- Identify locally occurring animals and plants
- Use food chains

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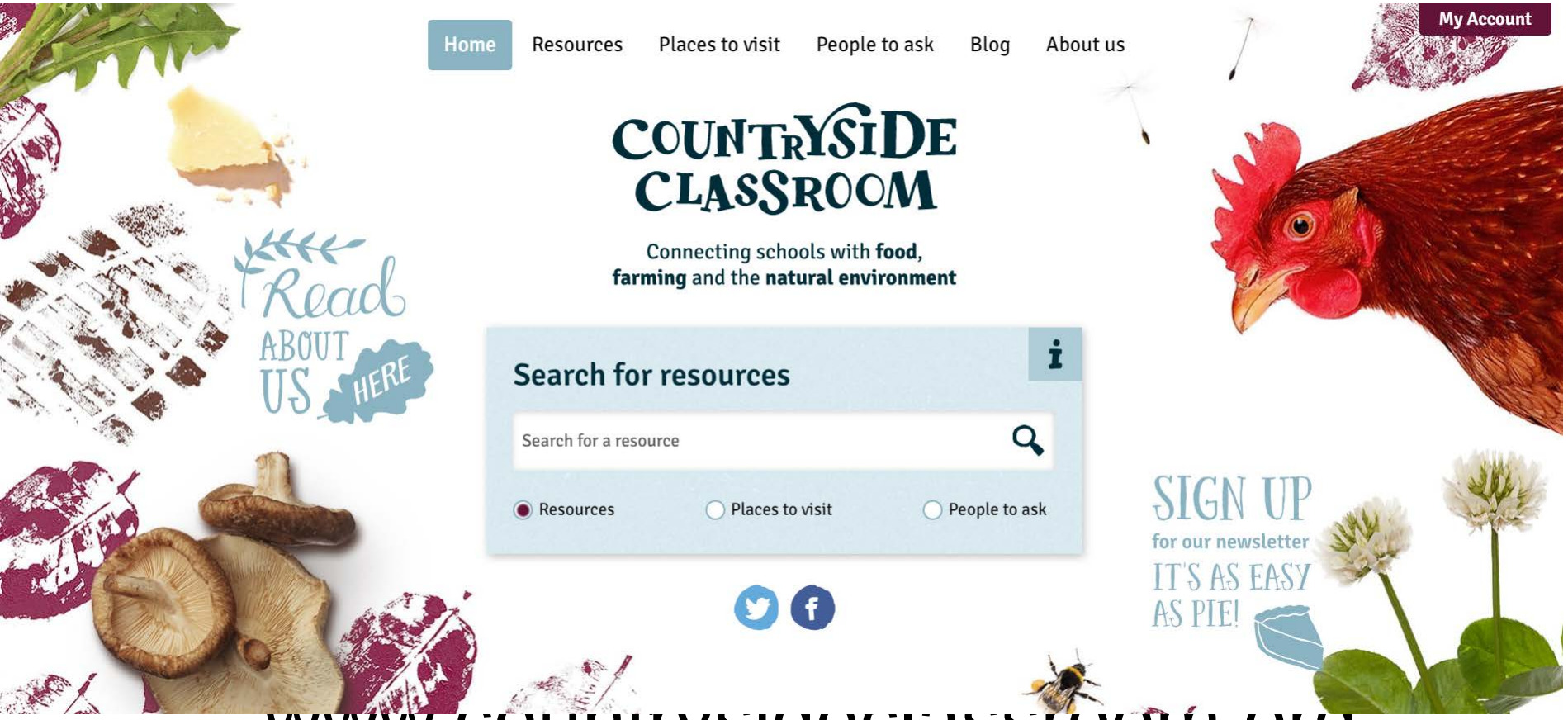


www.countrysideclassroom.org.uk

# Farming in your school grounds

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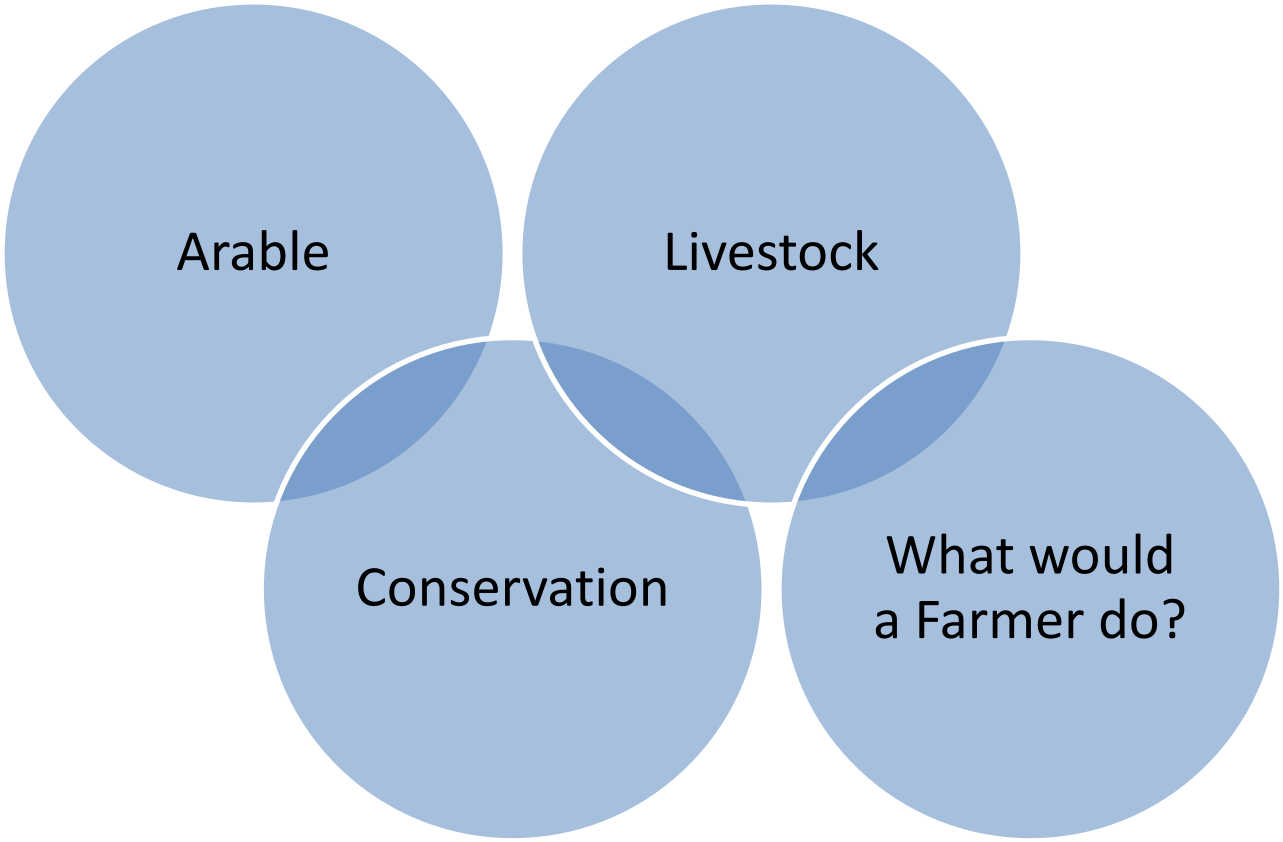
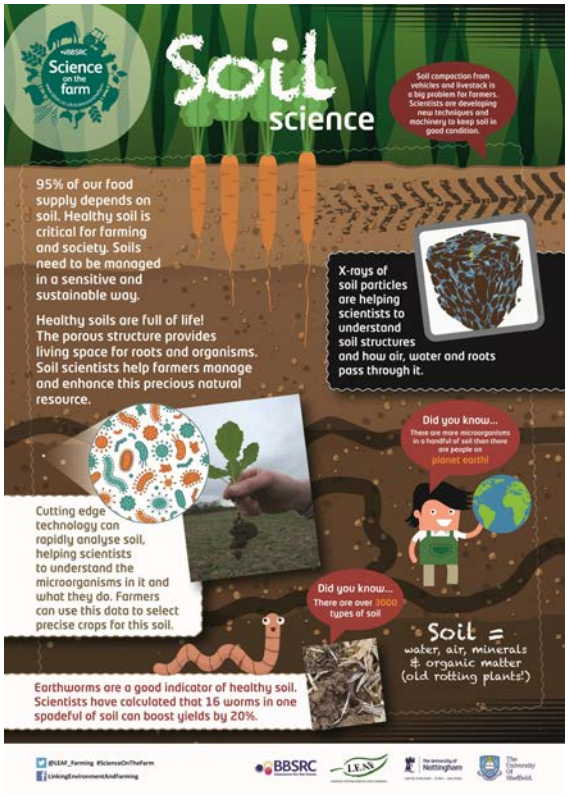


# Arable farming in your school grounds

**Soil is the most important resource for any farmer:**

- Use scientific methods to assess the soil at school
- Is it the same everywhere?
- Compare with other types
- What lives in the soil and why?
- How do Farmers care for the soil?
- Make your own soil
- Use soil to create artwork



# Arable farming in your school grounds

LNFYS – Marvellous mini fields

Get growing – information sheet

getgrowing!

growing schools

department for children, schools and families

- preparing, cooking and storing
- eating!

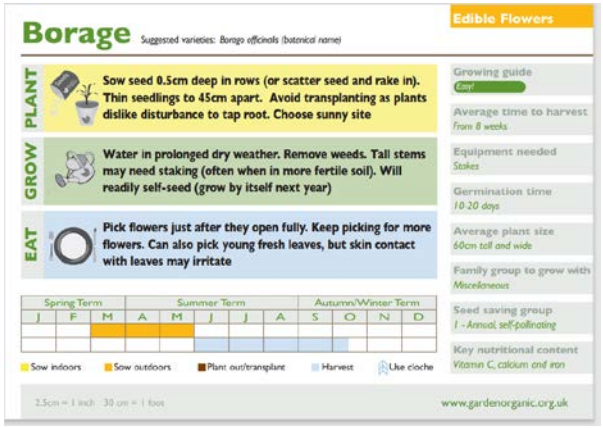
In each of these hands-on activities children will learn to listen, observe carefully and to take responsibility. At the same time they will:

- develop new understandings of the natural world and how it works.
- use a wide range of vocabulary to talk about and describe plants and processes involved in growing.
- work with you to solve problems such as how to deal with pests or make watering easier.
- gain mathematical skills while sorting fruit, pots and seeds.

**Where to plant: thinking about your space**

The amount of space you have will determine what kind of growing containers and arrangements you can have. You may be lucky enough to have

Grow your own cards



**Borage** Suggested varieties: *Borago officinalis (botanical name)*

Edible Flowers

**PLANT** Sow seed 0.5cm deep in rows (or scatter seed and rake in). Thin seedlings to 45cm apart. Avoid transplanting as plants dislike disturbance to tap root. Choose sunny site

**GROW** Water in prolonged dry weather. Remove weeds. Tall stems may need staking (often when in more fertile soil). Will readily self-seed (grow by itself next year)

**EAT** Pick flowers just after they open fully. Keep picking for more flowers. Can also pick young fresh leaves, but skin contact with leaves may irritate

| Spring Term | | | Summer Term | | | | | Autumn/Winter Term | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |

Sow indoors · Sow outdoors · Plant out/transplant · Harvest · Use cloche

2.5cm = 1 inch 30 cm = 1 foot

Growing guide: Easy!

Average time to harvest: From 8 weeks

Equipment needed: Stakes

Germination time: 10-20 days

Average plant size: 60cm tall and wide

Family group to grow with: Miscellaneous

Seed saving group: 1 - Annual, self-pollinating

Key nutritional content: Vitamin C, calcium and iron

www.gardenorganic.org.uk

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FOOD a fact of life

Grow Your Own Potatoes

National Fruit Show
ESTABLISHED 1933

# Arable farming in your school grounds

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Incredible eggs

Responsible Experienced Ethical

# Livestock farming in your school grounds

This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY

# Conservation in your school grounds

# What would a farmer do?

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# What’s next?