

Thu 17/10/2024 08:31

Dear Colleagues,

Creative Fieldwork 2

I'm really pleased that the new version of the Creative Fieldwork Guide has been published. Robyn Landy, Education Team Leader at Nettlecombe has written [Creative Fieldwork 2](#) with Janine Maddison (previously of the Field Studies Council and now at Newcastle University). As with all these kinds of endeavours, lots of people have been involved - Richard Peasland, ETL at Blencathra has done a case study, others have provided materials and Beks at publications has helped to produce what is a really beautiful and useful guide to innovative geography fieldwork.

Well done to all of you but to Robyn in particular who has put in a lot of her own time to get this project completed. Copies can be purchased [here](#) at an introductory sale price, but every centre will be receiving one in the post.

#going-going-gone-free-to-another-centre

The above is a new self explanatory slack channel. It's a mash up between the Bagpuss shop (for those of you old enough to remember that) and Stacey Soloman's Sort Your Life Out. Items are already being rehomed and repurposed. Who knew that we have enough tents to hold a large festival? So, if you are having a declutter at your centre, please jump on this channel and share what you have to give away.

Curriculum and Assessment Review

The long expected review is now [out for consultation](#). Given that so much of our business relies on fieldwork being a mandatory part of the English Curriculum we have been preparing for this for a very long time. Although we never know exactly what specific questions will be asked, we have done our research, honed our arguments, worked with others, gathered data and collected customer insight and feedback.

The review focuses on the practical rather than getting bogged down in the ideological weeds. They want to know what works, what doesn't and what could be done better. There is also a welcome focus on ensuring that disadvantaged learners do not miss out. Jo Harris and Joy Blizzard are heading up our response and will, as is usual with consultations, be seeking input from others over the coming month.

One specific area that Trustees may be able to help with, is with university contacts. If you know anyone who would be prepared to comment on how the long term decline of fieldwork opportunities in schools over many years is now manifesting itself in the lack of what was once common fieldwork skills and knowledge in undergraduates, it would be useful. We only need a short comment by Friday 8th November.

This is a public consultation so feel free to respond as an individual member of the public. There are a **lot** of questions but don't let that put you off because there is no need to answer all of them. The more people making the case for more fieldwork for everyone, the better. (Top Tip if you are short on time: Questions 12, 25-27, 41 and 54 are particularly relevant).

Children's Access to Nature in Education Survey

If the curriculum review is a form too far, here's an easier survey. The Wildlife and Countryside Link are running a brief survey exploring views on children's access to nature in education. At its

heart is a policy ask for a legal requirement for all education settings in England to provide access to and regular engagement with nature for children. They are interested in hearing from educators, but also parents and that convenient catch all: 'other'. It highlights some important issues and only takes a few minutes to complete. You can [find it here](#), and do feel free to share the link with others who have an interest in education.

Welcome to Field Studies Council

Jane Parker has joined the team at Nettlecombe as Hospitality and Catering Assistant

Katie Cornforth has joined the team at Slapton as General Assistant

Also this week:

Joanna Williams has been promoted to the role of Tutor at Preston Montford

Chris Darby has been promoted to the role of Tutor at Slapton.

Previous catch ups can be found on the [Staff News Page](#).

Best regards

Mark