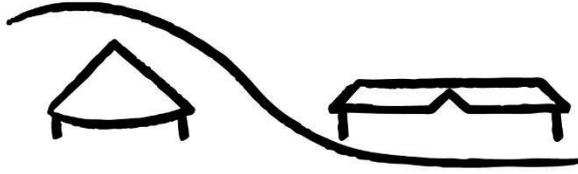


# BUTSER ANCIENT FARM



## ACTIVITIES OFFERED FOR SCHOOL VISITS

### **Wattling**

*Wattle was used as fencing and as a basis for the walls of houses. As a technology it spans all periods, from the Stone Age to the Vikings.*

Pupils learn how to weave a demonstration fence with hazel rods up to 4m long. They learn how to hold and manipulate the wood safely.

### **Clunching**

*Clunch, an ancient name for chalk, combines various natural ingredients to make the building material for walls.*

Chalk needs to be crushed and then added to mud, straw and water to make a mix to be used to build either a self-supporting wall or applied to a wattled structure as a weather sealant.

### **Flint wall building**

*Flint formed the basis of virtually an industrial revolution in Stone Age Britain. Thanks to its durability and abundance it remains an important building material to this day.*

Pupils are shown a wall built from flint and lime mortar. Then they build their own wall from dry flints and test its strength by walking along it!

### **Pottery**

*The potter's wheel was introduced into Britain during the Iron Age but long before that people were making simple but effective, hand-built pottery.*

Pupils use clay just as our ancestors did – straight from the ground! Popular items they can make are pots, models of warriors, houses, animals and plaques. Please bring labelled boxes in which to carry your pots home - one per group.

### **Jewellery**

*Ancient Britons wore jewellery that was often intricate in design and fashioned in bronze, silver or gold according to the status of its wearer.*

Pupils are shown how to use pliers safely to make a piece of jewellery to wear. All jewellery can be taken home.

**Please Note:** Stone Age people did not have metal technology, so this activity is not recommended for Stone Age visits.

### **Cordage**

*Cordage is, in essence, string made from grass. It is very useful in its own right and forms the basis of ropes, such as those which can bind thatch to a roof, a roof to its walls, even sails to a Viking longboat.*

Pupils are shown how to make strong cord from natural materials. The cordage they make can then be used to make a bracelet, bookmark or key fob..

### **Chalk Carving**

*Some of the most profound evidence of human activity is in the form of art. Chalk – abundant in southern Britain, soft but quite durable – has been used for millennia to make objects of decoration and veneration. This is an opportunity to make a piece to take home and talk about art and early beliefs.*

Pupils can carve a picture on a lump of chalk with a sharpened flint or carve it into a representative shape, just as prehistoric people did. All pieces can be taken home.

This activity can also be used to recognise and carve runes for Saxon and Viking topics.

### **Spinning**

*This was an essential skill – the first step towards making warm blankets and clothes.*

Pupils learn how to use a basic spindle to spin some wool from our sheep into yarn. The spun yarn makes a neat wristband and can be taken home.

### **Archaeology**

*Butser Ancient Farm would not exist but for archaeology – the science of exploration of the past. Using our demonstration archaeological pits, students get hands-on and experience what field archaeologists do, discuss finds and why they are important to us in the present day.*

- Pupils learn some basic methods used by archaeologists and then have the chance to be an archaeologist, digging in our pits or investigating find spreads using our field plans and finds examples. There is a strong likelihood that they will make discoveries. These discovery sessions provide an excellent springboard for students to use their powers of deduction and reasoning to help place their finds within an archaeological context.

### **Villa Tour**

*Butser Ancient Farm's Roman Villa was the first to be constructed in England since the fall of Roman Britain! Visiting schools can tour this important building and learn about Roman building and life.*

Pupils are given a guided tour around the Roman villa, which provides an excellent opportunity for them to compare and contrast Roman homes and ways of life with other periods.

### **Mosaics**

*The Romans made intricate mosaics with which they covered the floors of their villas and many public buildings.*

Pupils make a mosaic pattern using small tiles. This is a good opportunity for teamwork.

### **Roman Maths**

*Roman numerals are different to the numbers we use today and might be completely unfamiliar to students. Exploring Roman Maths helps them cement their own mathematical abilities and prompts further thought and enquiry through the gentle challenge of thinking mathematically... the Roman Way!*

Pupils take part in a maths lesson as if they were Romans.

### **Sewing Runes**

*Runic was a form of writing common to Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. Beautiful and mysterious, exploring runes offers a glimpse of cultures who are both alien and integral to modern Britain. We also explore the unexpected presence of runes in modern life and culture.*

Pupils use needles and wool to sew a rune, such as their initial, on to card.

### **Shop**

*A visit to the shop at Butser Ancient farm is a learning experience in itself providing opportunities for pupils to select from a range of articles such as rings, woven purses, pendants, small figures etc. The children do all their own calculations when purchasing the items.*