



# 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. These materials are all available from the local environment.*

Chalk needs to be crushed and then added to mud, straw and water to make a mix to be used to build a self-supporting wall.

### **Flint wall building**

*Romans were used to building with stone and used our local stone – flint, for their buildings.*

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

### **Pottery**

*Pupils use clay just as our ancestors did – straight from the ground!*

They will make small hand built items to take back to school. Please bring labelled boxes in which to carry your pottery 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 string or rope made from fibrous plants. 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 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.*

All pieces can be taken home.

### **Spinning**

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

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

### **Archaeology**

*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. 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.

### **Tour**

*Groups can choose to visit a house of a particular period – Stone Age, Iron Age, Roman or Saxon, to gain a greater understanding of what life there was like in the past. A tour can also offer a contrasting view of 2 periods eg. SA & IA, IA & Roman, Roman & Saxon.*

### **Mosaics**

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

Pupils are shown the wonderful mosaic in our villa which has been reconstructed using original techniques. Then 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**

*Runes were a form of writing used by Anglo-Saxons and Vikings.*

Pupils use needles and wool to sew runes, such as their initials, on to card to take home.

