



Schools Programme for May 2009

I am delighted to contact you regarding our upcoming events for schools at The Ark, A Cultural Centre for Children. I have enclosed a flyer detailing the production, workshops and continuing professional development for teachers during **The Ark and Dublin Dance Festival Children's Season**.

This letter details the schools workshops for **Earth Explorers**, The Ark's flagship visual arts project for 2009. By participating in **Earth Explorers**, you will be involved in a large scale programme which hopes to inspire, in the youngest of our citizens, a long term interest in the visual arts and a caring commitment to our natural surroundings.

We hope to encourage children to engage with concepts relating to our natural environment, and the impact that we all have on the places that surround us – to explore topics of environmental awareness, natural surroundings, sustainability, and the reusing and recycling of materials - exploring these themes through visual arts and science.

All workshops are visual arts based, with many strands of the Visual Arts Curriculum incorporated within each of the workshops. Further cross-curricular links are outlined with each workshop description.

For Junior and Senior Infants:

Clay Adventures with artist Terry O'Farrell

Dates: Tuesday 5 – Friday 8 May
Times: 10.15am & 12.15pm
Duration: 1 hour
Age Range: 4 – 6 years



Enter a world of small adventures, BIG heroes and perfect ecology. How does a worm use the earth? How does a bird make a nest? Experimenting with clay modelling processes, consider how animals, insects and birds work in harmony with their world, and make your own clay adventure!

*Curricular Links: Science
Strand – Living Things / Strand Unit – Plants and Animals*

For Junior and Senior Infants:

Whirly Windmills with artist Jole Bortoli

Dates: Tuesday 19 – Friday 22 May
Times: 10.15am & 12.15pm
Duration: 1 hour
Age Range: 4 – 6 years

Windmills inspire thoughts of summer days, sunshine and playing outdoors! In this workshop, imagine, create and decorate a miniature windmill in your own style which you can then bring to life through the natural energy of wind.

*Curricular Links: Science
Strand – Energy and Forces / Strand Unit – Forces*

For First Class – Third Class

Fossil Art with artist Orla Kelly

Dates: Tuesday 26 – Friday 29 May
Times: 10.15am
Duration: 1 ½ hours
Age Range: 6 – 9 years



Explore fossils of animals and plants, including some creatures that no longer exist. Make drawings of animals that could have lived thousands of years ago, and create your very own fossil using clay and plaster moulding.

Curricular Links: Geography

Strand – Natural Environments / Strand Unit: Rocks and Soils / Third Class

Strand – Natural Environments / Strand Unit: The Local Natural Environment / First & Second Class

For Fourth – Sixth Class

Weather vanes with artist Jole Bortoli

Dates: Tuesday 12 – Friday 15 May
Times: 10.15am
Duration: 2 hours
Age Range: 9 – 12 years

Decorative and ornamental weather vanes are usually placed on the highest point of a building and show us which direction the wind is travelling. Their designs can be inspired from the natural world: animals, birds, insects, flowers and plants. Join us to observe and explore various natural forms, through drawing and photographs, as well as creating your own weather vane.

Curricular Links: Science

Strand – Living Things / Strand Unit – Plant and Animal Life

Strand – Energy and Forces / Strand Unit – Forces

Finally, The Ark is celebrating World Environment Day, which takes place on Friday 5 June. Find out how you and your pupils can mark this day in your own classroom by accessing our free worksheet of ideas on our website – www.ark.ie – from Tuesday 2 June.

Tickets for all schools workshops are **€6.50 / €4.50*** (*price for Schools Serving Disadvantaged Areas and schools travelling from outside County Dublin), and are available through The Ark box office on **01.6707788**.

Should you need any further information, please don't hesitate to contact me on **01.6707788**. I hope that you and your class find something to interest you at The Ark this May and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Kind regards

Jeanine MacQuarrie

Box Office Manager | The Ark, A Cultural Centre for Children

