



YOUR INVITATION FROM WILL DORRELL, HOO FARM ANIMAL KINGDOM



It's a real pleasure to invite your school to Hoo Zoo and Dinosaur World and share information about what we do and why a visit here is so special. Our aim is to assist you in planning and preparing for your visit to Hoo Zoo and to create a fun and educational day out for children in key stages 1 & 2. Our ethos is conservation and education – and to share our love of animals with those who visit; helping them learn more about the 100 species residing here and understanding how we look after them.

We offer children an experience of zoo life as well as the opportunity to discover animals from around the world. Since 2007 we have been classified as a fully licensed zoo and the children will no doubt enjoy seeing some of our more exotic creatures. During your visit, children may choose to get up close and personal to some of our animals. They'll learn about habitat, what the animals eat and how long they live... plus many more interesting facts.

Although more than 400 animals live at Hoo Zoo, we're most famous as being the home of Shropshire's BIG cats so children may get to see some of the more unusual animals for the first time, like our Servals, Caracal and our Fishing Cat.

We want your visit to be a personal experience so with that in mind we will tailor the experience to support your classroom activities. In our talks we share information about the animals, their native habitat and origins, and help the children to understand more about the habits and personality of animals they may have only seen in books or on TV.

I look forward to speaking with you very soon and welcoming you to Hoo Zoo and Dinosaur World.

Will Dorrell, Partner

HISTORY OF HOO ZOO AND DINOSAUR WORLD, SHROPSHIRE'S FIRST ZOO

The farm itself is possibly 200 years old and over the years has been a dairy farm, Christmas tree nursery and award winning farm attraction, but most of all it has been a happy home to the Dorrell family since 1988.

Edward and Carolyn Dorrell – dairy farmers from Telford and one of the pioneers of dairy ice cream, moved to Hoo Farm in 1988, where the land had been used for growing Christmas trees. It was with these Christmas trees that Hoo Farm first opened its gates to the public; the first place to offer 'Cut and Dig Your Own Trees' in the West Midlands.

It wasn't long until customers started asking to look at the animals that took residence and so in the Spring of 1991, the gates were officially opened as Hoo Farm Animal Kingdom. Over the years more animals from around the world have taken residence. Ostrich, llama and deer arrived. Foxes, owls, raccoons and various reptiles all became popular with visitors and these days meerkats and alpacas are still big attractions.

In 2004 Hoo Farm was awarded a zoo license; becoming Shropshire's first and, at the time, only zoo.



WHAT WE OFFER

A visit to Hoo Zoo is the perfect opportunity for children to learn outside the classroom. The primary aim of your visit is for us to support the school's efforts in meeting the requirements of the national curriculum for key stages 1 & 2.

The national curriculum sets out the programmes of study and attainment targets for all subjects and we will work with you to develop work, assignments and activities for compulsory subjects which may include reading and writing, mathematics and geography.

Some of these can be done prior to the visit, on the day of the trip and following when they have a better understanding of the animals.

National Curriculum and Hoo Zoo

A visit to Hoo Zoo can be beneficial for many reasons during EYFS, Key Stage 1 & Key Stage 2 . Below are some examples of what topics a visit can cover – this list isn't exhaustive and we're always happy to discuss other visit ideas.

EYFS: Help develop motor skills on our play area, Sing and sign through our specialist signage and understanding of the world.

Year One: Animals, Including Humans.

Help children identify fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals through visiting the animals along with our 'Meet the Owl', 'Meet the Hedgehog/Meerkat' and 'Meet the Snake' talks.

Help children identify and name Carnivores, Herbivores and Omnivores through the above talks as well as visiting our Dinosaur World.

Help children describe and compare the structure of a variety of common animals through observing our Parrots, Big Cats, Wolves and Snakes.

Help children identify, name and label the basic parts of the human body and say which part is associated with each sense through our tailored talks.

National Curriculum and Hoo Zoo

Year Two: Living Things and Their Habitats & Animals, including Humans.

Explore and compare the differences between things that are living, dead, and things that have never been alive by visiting our (New for 2021) by visiting our Dinosaur World. Learning about animals that are alive now and those that have gone extinct.

Identify that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited and describe how different habitats provide for the basic needs of different kinds of animals and plants, and how they depend on each other by observing how each animal enclosure is different along with our tailored ‘Meet the Animal’ talks discussing what each animal eats.

Identify and name a variety of plants and animals in their habitats, including microhabitats by observing animals in their habitats and filling out a school activity sheet (please see download links later in the pack).

Help children describe how animals obtain their food from plants and other animals, using the idea of a simple food chain, and identify and name different sources of food through visiting the animals, dinosaurs, listening to one of our tailored talks and filling out a relevant activity sheet.

National Curriculum and Hoo Zoo

Year Three: Animals, including Humans.

Help children identify that animals, including humans, need the right types and amount of nutrition, and that they cannot make their own food; they get nutrition from what they eat by showing them different animals along with the food that they eat at various talks.

Help children identify that humans and some other animals have skeletons and muscles for support, protection and movement by allowing them to get hands on with different species. By visiting our Education Centre the children can see different animal skeletons and how mammals, birds and reptiles all differ.

Year Four: Living things and their habitats. Animals, including Humans.

Help children recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways, explore and use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment through our tailored ‘Meet the Owl, Meerkat and Snake’ talks along with filling out school activity sheets (please see download links later in the pack).

Help children recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things by visiting our (New for 2021) Dinosaur World and learning about what changes made the dinosaurs go extinct.

Help children construct and interpret a variety of food chains, identifying producers, predators and prey by visiting different animals around the farm (both predators and prey) along with one of our tailored talks.

National Curriculum and Hoo Zoo

Years Five and Six: Living things and their habitats.

Help children describe the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird through our tailored 'Meet the.....' talks looking at the differences between Owls, Snakes and Skunks.

Help children describe how living things are classified into broad groups according to common observable characteristics and based on similarities and differences by looking at different species of animals around the zoo and filling in a relevant activity sheet.

Help children give reasons for classifying plants and animals based on specific characteristics by listening to one of our tailored talks looking at the differences between different taxonomic families.



ORGANISING YOUR SCHOOL VISIT

After choosing the date you wish to visit Hoo Zoo and Dinosaur World, please fill in our booking form and email us at info@hoo-zoo.com.

We don't require a deposit when booking but cancellations fee do apply. Payment can be made by cheque or BACS.

We invoice shortly after your visit working on a 30 day remittance.

GROUP SIZES AND COSTS

Rates: £10 per child. 1 adult to every 6 children free.

Group prices are the same regardless of size.

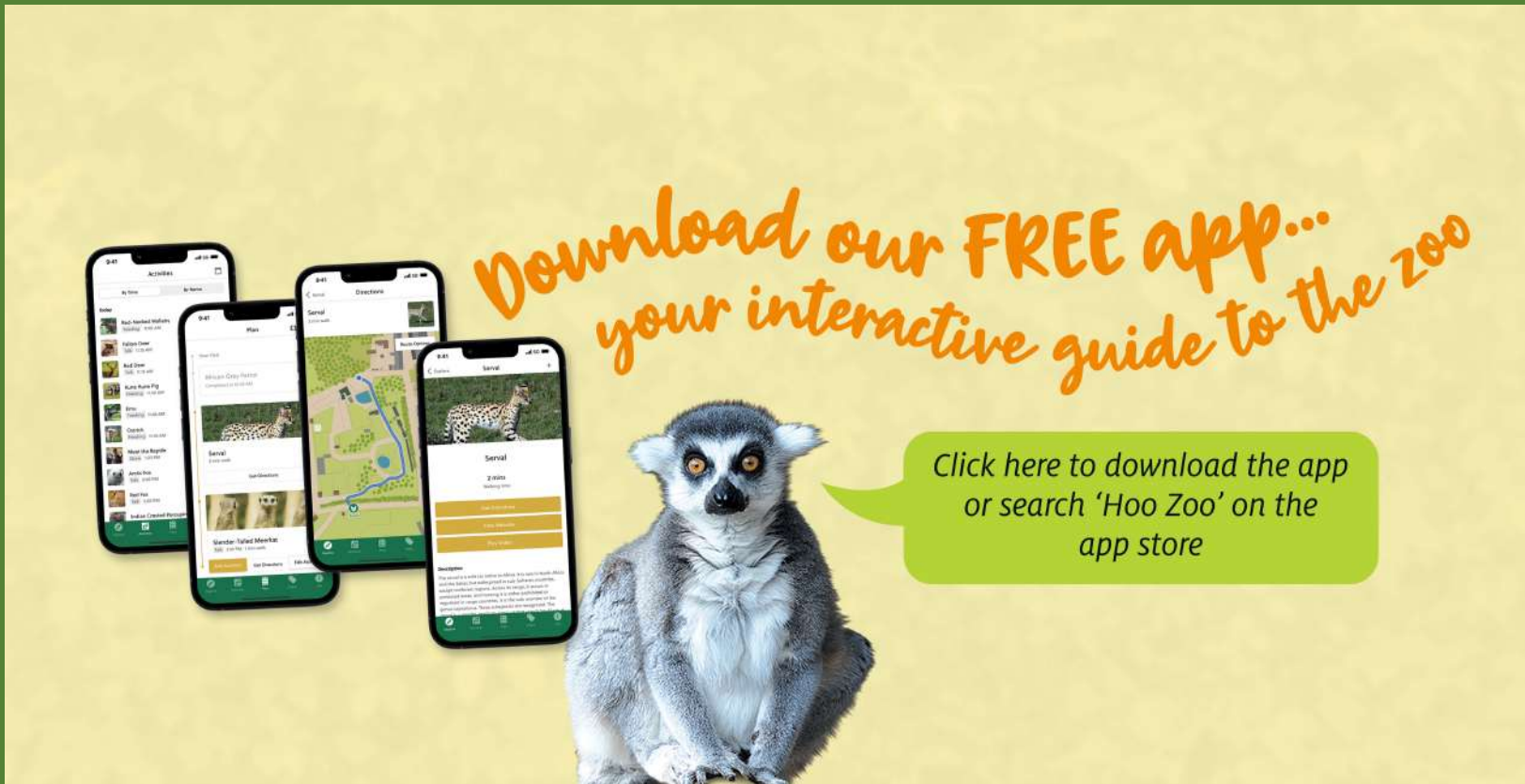
Booked visits are non refundable and non transferable.

Further information regarding parking and full instructions for the day will be sent via email.

These websites offer lots of helpful advice and resources when planning, preparing and undertaking your visit:

- www.farmsforschools.org.uk/ Farms for Schools
- www.lotc.org.uk/ The Council for Learning outside the Classroom
- www.faceonline.org.uk/teachers Farming and Countryside Education

HOO ZOO APP



As part of our responsibility to become carbon neutral we are now paperless. Your staff will need to download the Hoo Zoo App before attending either (just search Hoo Zoo in either the App or Google Play Store). There you will find an interactive map and list of daily activities. This is also an incredibly important education resource with links to important information and even educational videos on most of our animal.

DINOSAUR TOUR



Touted as one of the best dinosaur parks in the country, Hoo Zoo and Dinosaur World is home to over 30 life size realistic animatronic dinosaurs. Set throughout a woodland walk, we have gone to great lengths to ensure the experience is educational along with being fun. Taking children (and adults) through time from the Permian all the way to the Cretaceous periods in period correct settings we genuinely feel you won't get a more authentic experience anywhere else.

Exclusively for groups we offer Dinosaur Tours. These are roughly 30 minute long tours with our Dino Ranger who will tell the children all about the Dinosaurs in each area whilst also bringing along fossils (both replica and genuine) for the kids to get up close to and touch.

This is available at £1 extra per child and does get booked up quickly. Please request this when booking as we may not be able to add it on later.

CLIMBING WALL

Looking for something different on your visit? How about a climbing wall experience?

Suitable for children 6+ climbing walls are a great way to build confidence, build communication and develop motor skill (not to mention just being all round good fun).

A climbing wall experience can be added to your booking for an additional £3 per child.





THE DAY OF YOUR VISIT

- **Arrival** - Upon arrival at the zoo, please walk to the main entrance where you will be met by a member of staff. Please have your confirmation email with you. Your visit is unguided but keepers will put on various activities throughout the day for the children. It will be up to you to get your children to the various locations where the activities will take place.
- **Lunchtime** – We leave it up to you as to when you would like to take lunch, however we usually recommend taking it around 12.30pm. Seating is available in our picnic yard, classroom or on the play area. Food and drinks should only be consumed at break or lunchtimes once children have thoroughly washed their hands. Either before or after lunch, we will also make sure that the children have time to let off some steam in either our indoor or outdoor play areas (children must be supervised at all times).
- **What To Wear** - We recommend that visitors come prepared for rain or shine! A little drizzle will not stop us enjoying the outdoors if everyone is dressed appropriately. Wellington boots with thick socks are recommended. A waterproof jacket is essential just in case it begins to rain during the visit.



ZOO KEEPER

HEALTH & SAFETY

During your visit to Hoo Zoo the health and safety of the children and those accompanying them is a priority and we will provide you with the relevant documentation before your visit to ensure everyone remains safe whilst with us.

A school representative will be invited to Hoo Zoo in advance of the scheduled visit to meet with our school co-ordinator and to conduct any required risk assessments.

To assist in maintaining a safe and comfortable environment for all our visitors we ask that all pupils are effectively supervised and for this purpose we admit a ratio (1:6) of supervising adults free of charge.

Teachers are responsible for the children in their group at ALL times. Our team will be on hand to lead the activities and answer any questions.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

- Encourage children to wash hands thoroughly with soap and water after touching the animals, especially before eating. Please do not rely on hand sanitizer
- Children should be supervised at all times when using the play areas and the 'Rules of Play' must be adhered to
- Take note of any safety signs
- The Fire Assembly Point is our disabled car park
- The 'Lost Children Point' is **The Gift Shop Till**
- No eating or drinking in animal contact areas
- The First Aid point is located in the **Gift Shop**
- Follow the instructions given by your host at the activities.

FAQs.

Is the visit guided?

No, all school visits are unguided. However, keepers will be running various educational talks and activities that the children are welcome to take part in. We will endeavour to hit the various education points requested at these talks.

Will we be the only group?

We allow a maximum of 150 children each day with school/group visits but usually keep it around 100. Our keepers are all well used to giving talks to large crowds and will instruct the children (and adults) at the talks efficiently.

Do you have a Risk Assessment?

Indeed we do and this is included with your confirmation as standard. However, it is vital that you perform a preliminary visit before visiting.

Can we conduct a preliminary visit?

Absolutely yes! This is a vital part of the booking. We provide 2 free adult tickets once you have booked so that you can conduct a preliminary visit. To get these you just have to drop us an email and we will book you in for the day of your choice to come along and have a look around. We cannot stress enough how important this is. Not just can you conduct your own risk assessment, it will give you the opportunity to work out where the activities all take place, find the best spots for lunch and ask us any questions that you may have about your visit.

DOWNLOAD LINKS

- Year One:
 - <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/t-t-18578-sorting-animals-into-sets-worksheet>
 - <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/t2-s-316-animal-groups-display-posters>
 - <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/au-sc-2001-parts-of-african-animals-cut-and-paste-activity-sheets>
- Year Two:
 - <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/ks1-all-about-extinct-animals-t-tp-7037>
 - <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/ks1-all-about-endangered-species-t-tp-6978>
 - <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/t-t-2547618-ks1-animal-habitat-differentiated-fact-file-activity-sheets>
 - <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/t-sc-119-new-endangered-animals-top-card-game>
- Year Three:
 - <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/t2-s-219-food-chain-powerpoint>
 - <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/t2-s-160-food-chain-sorting-game>
 - <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/food-chain-producers-consumers-and-decomposers-sorting-activity-sheet-t2-s-1456>
 - <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/skeleton-sorting-game-tg-t-sc>
- Year Four:
 - <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/t-t-18578-sorting-animals-into-sets-worksheet>
 - <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/t2-s-799-animal-groups-game>
 - <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/t-t-19730-animal-groups-sorting-cards-photos>
 - <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/t2-s-116-animal-groups-worksheet>
 - <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/t-he-380-dinosaur-extinction-presentation>
 - <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/uks2-all-about-extinct-animals-powerpoint-t2-s-1448>
 - <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/t2-s-160-food-chain-sorting-game>
- Year Five and Six:
 - <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/t2-s-1423-life-cycles-mammals-amphibians-insects-and-birds-powerpoint>
 - <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/t2-s-420-year-5-differentiated-life-cycles-worksheets>
 - <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/t2-t-240-mammal-life-cycle-activity-sheet>
- Hoo Zoo App
 - <http://qrco.de/bdFx6a>

To arrange your class or school visit to Hoo Zoo and Dinosaur World, get in touch with
our events & educational team:

Email: info@hoofarm.com

Tel : 01952 677917

