Bring the curriculum to life and ignite your pupils’ imaginations with unique experiences at Brixton Windmill and our new Windmill Centre. We offer workshops for children from EYFS to Key Stage 2 with hands-on activities that are designed to meet curriculum needs.
BRIXTON WINDMILL

The Grade II* listed windmill was built in 1816 as a working flour mill — locally known as Ashby’s Mill after the family of millers — set within Windmill Gardens at the end of Blenheim Gardens, off Brixton Hill. The mill ceased production in 1934, and was first opened to the public in the 1960s when the land around it was laid out as a public park.

Following intermittent periods of use and neglect the windmill was restored by Lambeth Council with Heritage Lottery funding and returned to public use in 2011. Since then volunteers from the Friends of Windmill Gardens have opened it to visitors. Today the mill is London’s only working windmill and still produces stoneground wholemeal flour.

OUR WORKSHOPS

Little Red Hen Suitable for Nursery (3+ years), Reception, Y1
Meet the Miller Suitable for Reception, Y1, Y2
Flour Power Suitable for Y4, Y5, Y6
Robbed of Wind! Suitable for Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6

Our Little Red Hen is hard working, but she cannot persuade her friends to help her make a loaf of bread. Can you help?

This interactive workshop uses the well-known folktale The Little Red Hen as a basis to explore how flour is made. Children will handle wheat, flour and bread, help to make some flour and use their own words to retell the story.

Learning objectives
Pupils will:
- understand that flour comes from wheat and how it is made
- discuss the benefits of giving and sharing
- listen to a story and take information from it

National Curriculum links
EFYS to all the key areas:
- Communication and language
- Personal, social and emotional development
- Literacy
- Understanding the world

Key Stage 1 links
- Citizenship
- English
- Design and Technology (cooking and nutrition)

MEET THE MILLER

Reception to Year 2 (adapted to year group) 1.5 hours

Brixton Windmill’s miller works hard to make flour for the people of Lambeth. How does he do it? What is his life really like? And who helps him along the way?

In this interactive workshop, gain an insight into what Brixton life was like nearly 200 years ago. Use pictures to compare past and present, and find out what kinds of jobs people did to get bread onto your table. Use costumes and hot seating to find out about working life in and around the mill. Children will handle wheat, flour and bread; help to grind some flour; visit the lower floors of Brixton Windmill; and role-play to imagine what it was really like to work at the windmill, before writing their learning into instructions.

Session inside Brixton Windmill and a classroom session in our Centre.

Learning objectives
Pupils will:
- ask questions to find out how people worked at the windmill
- consider skills needed to do different jobs
- compare past and present using pictorial resources
- understand that flour comes from wheat and how it is made
- write and illustrate instructions.

National Curriculum links
- History (local history; questioning, comparing)
- Design and Technology (cooking and nutrition)
- English (speaking and listening; writing for different purposes)

FLOUR POWER

Years 3 to 6 1.5 hours

Visit London’s last working windmill. Learn about how windmills work, the engineering behind these remarkable buildings, and how people used them in the past.

Figure out how to utilise wind power to turn the mill stones. Take on our group challenge to build your own windmill from bottles and boxes and use cogwheels to make it turn the millstones. Test your masterpiece and discuss the problems that you encountered – can you work out why yours is more efficient than anyone else’s?!
Session inside Brixton Windmill and a classroom session in our Centre.

Learning objectives
Pupils will:
- understand how wind was used to power the windmill
- consider the different factors affecting power and efficiency
- explore how pulleys can be used to harness energy
- explore how gears can be used to manage force
- work as a team to tackle a technical challenge
- evaluate and discuss their work.

National Curriculum links
- Science (pulleys; gears)
- Design and Technology (technical knowledge)

ROBBED OF WIND
Years 4 to 6
1.5 hours

It’s 1861 and the Ashby family, the millers at Brixton Windmill are not happy. Their windmill is being robbed of wind.

Discover their story and find out how the growth of London changed life in Brixton Hill. Look at maps, drawings, census returns and photographs to find out how different people felt about the changes to their area. Finish with a lively historical debate about whether or not development of the area should continue.

Children will handle wheat, flour and bread; help to grind some flour; and visit the lower floors of the windmill.

Session inside Brixton Windmill and a classroom session in our Centre.

Learning objectives
Pupils will:
- ask questions to find out how people worked at the windmill
- use a range of sources to find out how Brixton Hill changed in the 19th century
- look at changes to the local area from different perspectives
- debate the benefits and disadvantages of change and development
- understand that flour comes from wheat and how it is made.

National Curriculum links
- History (local history; questioning; comparing)
- Geography (interpreting sources; map reading; changes in land use)
- Design and Technology (cooking and nutrition)
- Citizenship

CONTACT US
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