

## PLANNING INFORMATION FOR BUTTERFLY CREEK VISIT

- ☐ Classes are best pre-split into groups of up to 34 including adults. We can then direct groups to the train / farm / petting shed / tropical fish tanks / talk with entomologist / Butterfly House.
- ☐ The main group should please enter through the side gate. It can be opened from the outside.
- ☐ The Leader – please report to the shop upon arrival so that we can show you the areas by the playground that the children can have morning tea and lunch, locations of toilets and a room / areas where children can leave their bags. We also show you the room where children can eat if it is a rainy day. The shop is to the right of the main entrance. We will also arrange with you (upon arrival) to give the children a talk about the rules before they go to the attractions.
- ☐ Some groups start by going straight into Buds room for their talk. A lot of groups like to start by having morning tea, and have their talk afterwards but this is optional. If your group is short of time, you can explain that you have already taught the children the rules and skip the talk.
- ☐ Once we have given some initial direction we expect your groups to be self propelling - swapping over to the various attractions themselves. On busier days we will give more direction to help make sure that you all get a fair turn at the attractions. We would also like all older school groups to have the opportunity to hear our fantastic Entomologist, Paul, give a short talk about the role of insects and about the Butterfly House. We suggest that you have your class prepare 3 or 4 interesting questions for him.
- ☐ While it is good to have a plan, it is also a good idea to be flexible in terms of fitting in with our advice on the day – we are aiming to give you the best visit possible.
- ☐ There is always a staff member in the petting shed and another working at and around the butterfly house.
- ☐ It is a good idea to bring coats as the weather can turn. The petting shed at the farm is covered and so is the train but getting to and from there isn't.
- ☐ It is very hot in the Butterfly house so it is best if children tie jackets or jumpers around their waist or put them in their school bags.
- ☐ We prefer to stagger group arrival times. Please do your best to be on time.
- ☐ Generally it is best to plan to be here between 2.5 and 4 hours. Groups vary greatly but in general they spend an hour and a half to two hours at the attractions and an hour or so for morning tea, lunch, talks and on the playground.
- ☐ A general guideline for how long to expect to spend at the attractions:  
Train: 10 – 15 minutes  
Petting shed: 15 - 30 minutes  
Rest of the farm: 10 – 15 minutes  
Entomologists talk: 5 – 15 minutes (depending on children's age and questions)  
(If the Entomologist is unavailable there is a 6 minute DVD for the children to watch)  
Aquarium: 5 – 10 minutes  
Butterfly House: 20 – 40 minutes

Most groups like to play on the playground if they finish an attraction early.

- ☐ Please be aware that we probably also have other pre-school, school and elderly groups here on the same day. **Some teachers have been here many times before and like to do their own thing with their groups...** We ask them to please try and avoid entering the same attraction at the same time as another group. And to still contact us on arrival so that we may give the children a care and safety rules talk.
- ☐ As much as possible, please try and avoid walking through the café by directing groups from the front entrance to the side gate.
- ☐ Children are expected to bring their own food. They are not allowed to eat in the café or on the café veranda. Adults are not supposed to bring food and are welcome to purchase food and coffee from our excellent café.