

**Clifton** (Main Office and Junior Site):  
Worrall Road, Clifton, Bristol, UK BS8 2UH  
Tel: 0117 903 0251

**Redland** (Infant Site):  
Lower Redland Road, Redland, Bristol, UK BS6 6SU  
Tel: 0117 353 2090

19<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Early Years Families,

We are very excited to tell you that all of our Early Years Children will have three visits to Watercress Farm at Belmont Estate this year. The visits are called 'The BE Wild Experience' and here is some more information from the team at Belmont Estate:

### *What is Belmont Estate?*

*Belmont is a 350-acre, Georgian country estate set in an 18th Century heritage landscape: comprising grade II listed parkland, woodland, riverside meadows, orchards and historic buildings in addition to a unique rewilding project and education setting. Our mission is genuine environmental and ecological restoration with accessible educational experiences that offer children a unique insight into the natural world.*

*We are passionate about restoring biodiversity, tackling climate change and demonstrating a new way of managing our land. Rewilding, rewetting and practising regenerative farming, we protect and encourage indigenous wildlife in danger of local and national extinction.*

*Watercress Farm is a rewilding Project of around 150 acres with a small population of free-ranging rare-breed livestock including Red Ruby Devon cattle, Tamworth pigs and Dartmoor ponies. They graze the site: increasing biodiversity through their behaviours and helping to replicate and restore the natural functioning ecosystem.*

*The BE Wild experience is focused on connection and wellbeing. By visiting three times over the school year, the children will gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of a whole range of natural processes and build a stronger connection to nature and a sense of belonging at Watercress Farm. The team at Belmont Estate believe in the restorative and therapeutic power of nature and know that giving children regular and meaningful access to wild and natural spaces has a positive and long-lasting impact on their emotional, social and physical wellbeing. We don't mind if we get a bit muddy, wet or tired; we want everyone to experience the thrill and adventure of playing in nature!*

### **Overview of BE Wild days**

*Children will begin each visit with a Wild Walking Safari, including greeting the free-range animals before enjoying the rest of their visit in the riverside woodland and meadows in the purpose-built education areas. With a mixture of prepared activities, planning in the moment and facilitated free-play, the child-led approach encourages children to let their imaginations run wild as they explore and learn.*

*Each visit will be themed around Nature's Principles of Harmony – diversity, the cycle, oneness, adaptation, interdependence, health, and geometry. Using nature as our teacher, we learn about how the natural world relies on balance and harmony to function as one, healthy system.*

*The team at Belmont Estate remember the sense of excitement they had as children when allowed to climb trees, hunt for insects or paddle in streams and want everyone who visits to feel the same!*

*We hope to foster a sense of awe and wonder about nature and a life-long love of the natural world. While taking part in our BE Wild days, children will learn new skills while taking risks, getting muddy and having fun! "...above all, watch with glittering eyes the whole world around you..."*

**Clifton** (Main Office and Junior Site):  
Worrall Road, Clifton, Bristol, UK BS8 2UH  
Tel: 0117 903 0251

**Redland** (Infant Site):  
Lower Redland Road, Redland, Bristol, UK BS6 6SU  
Tel: 0117 353 2090

BE WILD		
Visit 1	Visit 2	Visit 3
Term 1	Term 3	Term 5
Term 2	Term 4	Term 6
Diversity and The Cycle	Interdependence and Adaptation	Health and Oneness
Key question: Why do we need diversity and how does it appear or change throughout the year	Key question: why do we need wildlife? How are the plants and animals at Watercress adapted to their environment?	Key Question: What does a healthy ecosystem look like? What is our role in nature?

Incredibly, the sessions at Belmont estate are free of charge, the only cost we need to cover is for coach transport, which works out at £11.15 per child per visit, (£33.45 in total).

This voluntary charge contribution will be available for you to pay on your ParentMail account.

To order a packed lunch for your child please use the form on Parentmail, by **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October** to allow time for the kitchen to place an order. If you do not order one, you will need to provide your child with a packed lunch on the day.

The dates for our visits are:

Cygnets	Ducklings	Goslings
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> October 2024	Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> October 2024	Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2025

What to wear:

- Layers of clothes to keep warm e.g. vest, long-sleeved t-shirt and jumper.
- Long trousers to discourage ticks and protect legs from stinging nettles and brambles etc.
- Sturdy waterproof shoes - feet can get cold in wellies so two pairs of socks recommended!
- Waterproof coat and trousers
- Hat, scarf and gloves

Children will also need a packed lunch, to be carried in a backpack.

We will require additional helpers for each visit, please let your child's class teacher know if you are able to accompany us on any of the dates.

With thanks and very best wishes,  
Bex Berry  
Early Years Foundation Stage Leader