

2022 / 2023

# WEE CRITTERS

INTERACTIVE ANIMAL EDUCATION



CURRICULUM BASED SCHOOL PROGRAMMES





# WEE CRITTERS IS A FULLY MOBILE AND PROFESSIONAL INTERACTIVE ANIMAL EDUCATION SERVICE WHICH OPERATES THROUGHOUT NORTHERN IRELAND.



We unfortunately live in a world where many species of both animals and plants are on the brink of extinction. Developing an appreciation of wildlife in our children is a fundamental element in safeguarding the safety and future of our wildlife and environment.

Our mission is to bring the wonder of wildlife straight to your school with the aim of providing a unique, fun, memorable and educational experience which will inspire a lifelong appreciation for wildlife and a commitment to playing an active role in the protection and conservation of animals and the natural environment.

## SCHOOL PROGRAMMES

LET OUR INTREPID EXPLORER TAKE YOUR CLASS ON AN INTERACTIVE ADVENTURE. ALONG WITH HIS TEAM OF 'WEE CRITTERS', ALLAN, WILL BRING THE NATURAL WORLD STRAIGHT TO YOUR CLASSROOM OR OUTDOOR SPACE.

With curriculum-based topics to suit all age groups, our sessions will give you the chance to meet some of our specially selected animal ambassadors and will support work being carried out in your class.



ALL SESSIONS ARE COVERED BY A FULL RISK ASSESSMENT AND COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE.  
Access NI, child safeguarding, animal welfare and environmental policies are also available.







# Hi, I'm ALLAN!

I FOUNDED WEE CRITTERS IN 2018 FOLLOWING A LIFETIME PASSION FOR WILDLIFE AND A 15 YEAR CAREER IN THE ZOOLOGY AND CONSERVATION FIELD, WORKING WITH A RANGE OF ANIMALS INCLUDING PENGUINS, PRIMATES, BIG CATS, BEARS AND MORE!

While I was involved in caring for some of the world's most endangered wildlife, I wanted to play a bigger role in conservation and the ongoing efforts to combat the threats driving species to the brink of extinction. My work led me to speak at global conservation conferences in the UK, Ireland, Europe, America, Taiwan and Singapore. Doing so ignited an excitement for sharing my love of wildlife through public speaking and education.

RECOGNISING THE POWER THAT WILDLIFE HAS IN THE IMAGINATION OF CHILDREN, I AM COMMITTED TO DRIVING A LOCAL PASSION FOR WILDLIFE WITHIN OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS THROUGH MY WORK WITH WEE CRITTERS.



## 'KOALA-FICATIONS' EXPERIENCE & TRAINING



- 18 year career in animal management; zoology and conservation
- Diploma in Zoo Animal Management (Sparsholt College)
- Child Protection Training (level 2)
- Autism Awareness Training (provided by Autism NI)
- Understanding the Autism Spectrum (Queens University)
- Sensory Steps Training ASD Processing and Sensory Equipment Training
- Sensory Loss Awareness Training (Sense Northern Ireland)
- Disability Awareness Training
- Covid-19 Awareness Training
- Fully Access NI checked

## WORKING TOGETHER FOR WILDLIFE!

We believe that environmental and conservation education must be a collaborative effort. We work with a number of like-minded organisations and have professional membership of institutions.



WEE CRITTERS IS FULLY LICENSED BY DAERA TO PROVIDE THESE SESSIONS AND IS RECOGNISED, THROUGH THIS LICENSING PROCESS, FOR DEMONSTRATING HIGH STANDARDS OF ANIMAL CARE.



# OUR TOPICS

FROM THE CURIOUSLY CUTE TO THE CREEPY AND CRAWLY, WHEN YOU BOOK OUR SERVICES, A CAREFULLY SELECTED TEAM OF OUR 'WEE CRITTERS' WILL COME ALONG TO YOUR CLASSROOM! WE OFFER A RANGE OF TOPICS WHICH CAN BE ADAPTED FOR PRE-SCHOOL, FOUNDATION, KEY STAGES 1, 2, 3, 4 AND FURTHER EDUCATION!

## THE WORLD AROUND US



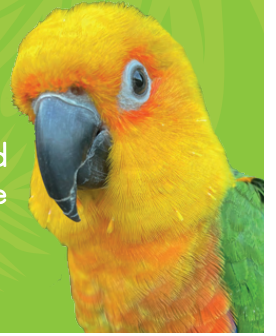
EXPLORE THE WORLD AROUND US AND THE ANIMALS THAT CALL IT HOME!

This generic topic introduces your class to the wildlife of the world and our role in protecting the planet.

## JUNGLE VIPs

MEET THE HIGH FLIERS AND THE LEAF LITTER LOVERS OF THE JUNGLE!

Learn all about the world's rainforests, where they are found, the role they play, the amazing plants and animals that call them home and our role in protecting them!



## MARVELLOUS MINIBEASTS

LET YOUR LITTLE ONES MEET OUR LITTLEST CREATURES!

Learn how mini-beasts have adapted to protect themselves from predators, their role in protecting our eco-systems and other fun facts!



## WE ARE FAMILY

EXPLORE THE DIVERSITY OF LIFE ON EARTH AND THE CHARACTERISTICS THAT MAKE ANIMALS 'FAMILY'!

Learn more about classification and how to identify reptiles, amphibians, birds, invertebrates and mammals.



## MIDNIGHT MAYHEM



LET OUR WEE CRITTERS INTRODUCE YOUR CLASS TO THE THINGS THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT!

Find out what a nocturnal animal is, why animals choose the night life and how they are adapted to a life in the dark.

## SHAKE, RATTLE AND ROLL IN A BALL

WHETHER THEY CAUSE A STINK, LOOK SHARP OR FADE INTO THE BACKGROUND, ANIMALS HAVE UNIQUE WAYS TO PROTECT THEMSELVES.

Learn about the amazing way that animals are adapted to protect themselves from danger and predators.







## WE TAKE THE SAFETY OF YOUR CLASS VERY SERIOUSLY!

In addition to our normal health and safety procedures, we have comprehensive risk assessments, Covid-19 procedures and Allan the Explorer has completed Covid-19 Awareness Training. Copies of all documents are provided in advance of our visit.

### CIRCLE OF LIFE

WE WILL HOP ON OVER TO GIVE YOUR CLASS A 'RIBBIT-ING' TALK ABOUT ANIMAL LIFECYCLES!

Find out all about animals' journeys to adulthood and the changes they go through along the way!



### HOME SWEET HOME

TAKE A TRIP AROUND THE WORLD TO MEET THE ANIMALS THAT CALL FORESTS, DESERTS, MOUNTAINS AND GRASSLANDS HOME!

Learn about different habitats, how animals are adapted to these environments, the threats facing these eco-systems and how we can protect them.



### WINTER IS COMING

FIND OUT HOW ANIMALS ARE ADAPTED TO LIFE IN DIFFERENT CLIMATES AND SEASONS.

Discover the ways that animals live in hot and cold climates and learn all about hibernation and migration.



### WHAT'S ON THE MENU?

WE ALL NEED FOOD TO GIVE US ENERGY TO PLAY, TO KEEP US HEALTHY AND TO HELP US GROW BIG AND STRONG!

Find out all about herbivores, carnivores and omnivores. Learn where energy comes from and how it passes from one animal to another in the food chain.



### LOVE YOUR LOCALS

ANIMALS ON OUR OWN DOORSTEP ARE IN TROUBLE!

Find out more about native species, the problems they are increasingly facing and learn how we can all help to protect them.



### I LIKE TO MOVE IT

WHETHER THEY HOP, SCURRY OR CRAWL OUR CRITTERS CAN HELP YOUR PRE-SCHOOLERS HAVE A BALL!

Learn about the different ways that animals move. Slither like a snake, hop like a frog or roll in a ball like a hedgehog.





## EDGE OF EXTINCTION

FROM DINOSAURS TO DODOS, SPECIES THROUGHOUT HISTORY HAVE BEEN DRIVEN TO EXTINCTION!

Learn how animals have evolved for survival, find out more about endangered species, the threats facing them and the wee ways we can all help.



## AFRICA ALIVE

LET US TRANSPORT YOU TO AFRICA WITHOUT EVER LEAVING YOUR CLASSROOM.

Learn more about the habitats of Africa, the animals that live there and the threats facing this unique continent and its wildlife.



## NURTURE GROUPS & SEN CLASSES

WE AIM TO MAKE OUR EXPERIENCE AS INCLUSIVE AS POSSIBLE.

Meeting our Wee Critters can have many physiological and psychological benefits. Our sessions aim to deliver a sensory experience which encourages expression of emotions, empathy for wildlife and promotes wellbeing.

## CUSTOM TOPICS

WE CAN CREATE BESPOKE SESSIONS TO COVER ANY TOPIC THAT YOU ARE STUDYING IN THE CLASSROOM.

We can also support:

- school events
- eco-school projects
- after school clubs
- holiday clubs
- and much more



## ANOTHER LEVEL OF LEARNING...

We have been busy getting ready for the new academic year by developing a range of NEW learning resources. These resources will support each topic to help create an even more immersive, educational and interactive experience.

Your class can learn what frog spawn feels like, get a whiff of skunk spray, check out the smallest and largest bird eggs in the world or even take part in our 'rainforest rhythm' session; where your class can recreate the noises of the jungle with rain, thunder, frog, insect noises and more.

We can also provide a wrap around learning experience with complementary resources, suggestions, craft ideas and worksheets for your class to complete before or after our visit. Each session will now also include an element called 'wee ways to change the world' which will aim to teach your class small things that we can all do to make the world a better place.



THERE ARE 'WEE WAYS' WE CAN ALL CHANGE THE WORLD. AS A SMALL BUSINESS WE PROUDLY SUPPORT:



RED PANDA  
NETWORK



WORLD  
LAND  
TRUST



ORANGUTAN  
FOUNDATION  
A FUTURE FOR ORANGUTANS, FORESTS & PEOPLE

sense



# SCHOOL REVIEWS

MANY THANKS TO ALLAN FOR A FANTASTIC DAY AT DUNCLUG PRIMARY SCHOOL. THE CHILDREN AND THE STAFF LOVED EVERY MINUTE OF THE WORKSHOPS AS ALLAN SHARED HIS INCREDIBLE KNOWLEDGE AND PASSION! THE WORKSHOPS WERE TAILORED AND DIFFERENTIATED TO SUIT CHILDREN OF ALL AGES FROM NURSERY TO SECONDARY SCHOOL! THE COMPANY ARE VERY EASY TO WORK WITH - GREAT COMMUNICATION THROUGHOUT THE BOOKING PROCESS AND VERY FLEXIBLE. WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU BACK SOON!

- Dunclug Primary School

I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR PROVIDING SUCH EXCELLENT WORKSHOPS FOR OUR PUPILS TODAY. BOTH TEACHERS IMMEDIATELY CAME TO FIND ME AFTER EACH SESSION TO TELL ME HOW FANTASTIC YOU WERE AND HOW MUCH THE CHILDREN ENJOYED THE EXPERIENCE. IT IS RARE TO FIND SOMEONE WHO IS CLEARLY SO PASSIONATE AND KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THEIR CRAFT AND WE WOULD NOT HESITATE TO BOOK AGAIN.

- Kirkinriola Primary School

WE HAD THE WEE CRITTERS IN SCHOOL AND WHAT AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE CHILDREN TO HOLD, SEE AND LEARN ABOUT AN AMAZING VARIETY OF ANIMALS PRESENTED TO THEM. A FABULOUS LEARNING EXPERIENCE!

- Campbell College Junior School

MANY THANKS AGAIN FOR THE BRILLIANT 'AFRICA ALIVE' INTERACTIVE LEARNING SESSION YOU DID FOR US. THE CHILDREN REALLY ENJOYED IT AND SO DID THE STAFF! HAVING A SESSION SUCH AS THIS REALLY ENHANCES THE CHILDREN'S LEARNING. WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU AND YOUR WEE CRITTERS BACK AGAIN SOON!

- Andrews Memorial Primary School

ALLAN VISITED OUR SCHOOL TO PROVIDE THREE SEPARATE INTERACTIVE TEACHING SESSIONS FOR OUR P5 CLASSES. BOTH THE CHILDREN AND THE STAFF WERE BLOWN AWAY BY THESE SESSIONS. NOT ONLY WERE THEY INFORMATIVE AND ENGAGING BUT THEY WERE ALSO FULL OF FUN AND EXCITEMENT, ONLY HEIGHTENED BY ALLAN'S UNIQUE SET, PROPS AND ENERGETIC DELIVERANCE. IT IS CLEAR TO SEE THAT ALLAN HAS AN AUTHENTIC PASSION FOR WHAT HE DOES AND THE ANIMALS IN HIS CARE ARE CLEARLY VERY WELL LOOKED AFTER. IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A QUALITY, INTERACTIVE LIVE ANIMAL EXPERIENCE, ALLAN IS THE MAN!

- Pond Park Primary School

WEE CRITTERS RECENTLY VISITED MY PRIMARY 3 CLASS. MY CLASS ABSOLUTELY LOVED THEIR EXPERIENCE. THE CHILDREN WERE SHOWN MANY DIFFERENT TYPES OF CREATURES AND EVEN HAD THE CHANCE TO HOLD AND INTERACT WITH SOME OF THEM. I COULD SEE HOW MUCH THEY ENJOYED THE EXPERIENCE. ALLAN WAS FANTASTIC WITH THE CHILDREN AND I FEEL PROVIDED SO MUCH INFORMATION AND LEARNING IN A FUN MANNER. THE KIDS HAVE TALKED ABOUT THIS EXPERIENCE IN CLASS AND I FEEL IT WAS A FANTASTIC LINK TO OUR MIMI-BEAST THEME. I WOULD HIGHLY RECOMMEND WEE CRITTERS AND WOULD CERTAINLY BOOK THIS EXPERIENCE AGAIN IN THE FUTURE. THANK YOU! SOME OF THE KIDS EVEN DECIDED TO MAKE A REPLICA OF ALLAN'S SNAIL OUT OF CLAY WHICH I THOUGHT WAS LOVELY.

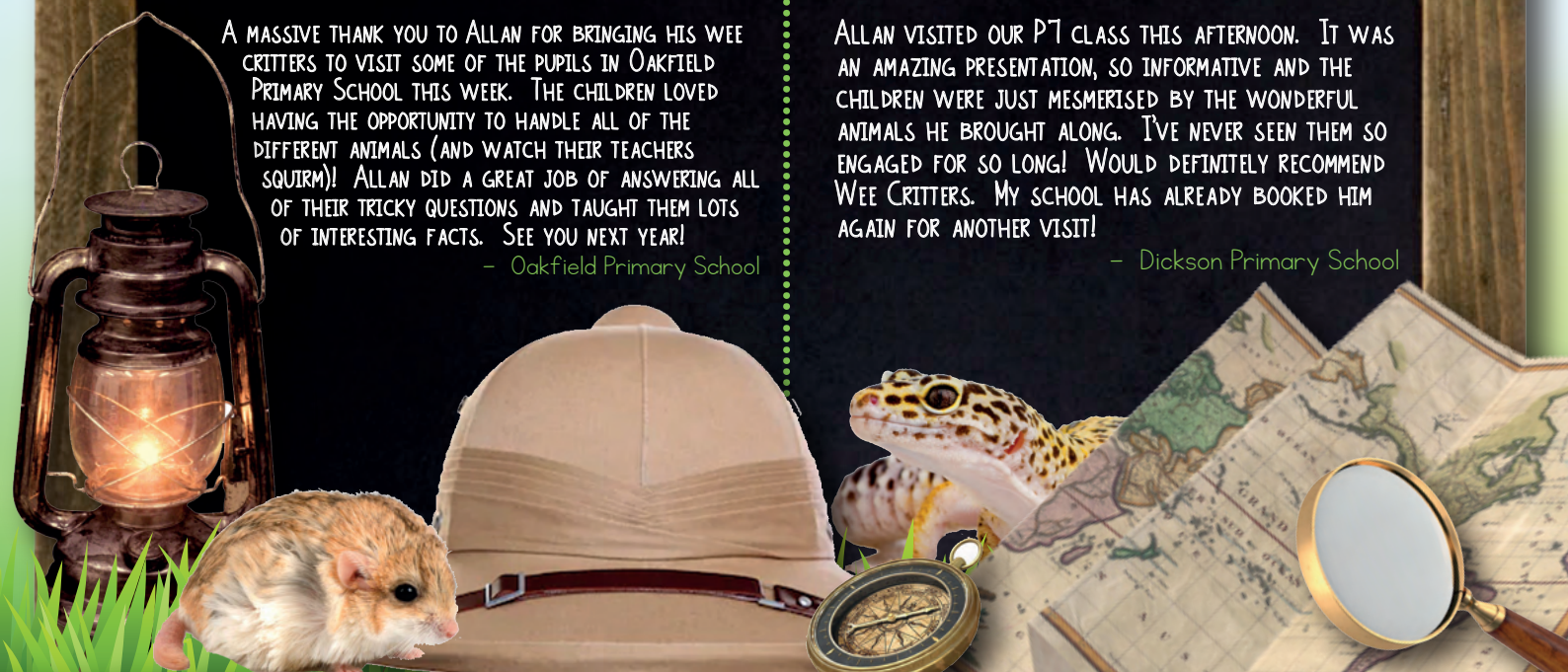
- Tullygally Primary School

A MASSIVE THANK YOU TO ALLAN FOR BRINGING HIS WEE CRITTERS TO VISIT SOME OF THE PUPILS IN OAKFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL THIS WEEK. THE CHILDREN LOVED HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO HANDLE ALL OF THE DIFFERENT ANIMALS (AND WATCH THEIR TEACHERS SQUIRM)! ALLAN DID A GREAT JOB OF ANSWERING ALL OF THEIR TRICKY QUESTIONS AND TAUGHT THEM LOTS OF INTERESTING FACTS. SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

- Oakfield Primary School

ALLAN VISITED OUR P7 CLASS THIS AFTERNOON. IT WAS AN AMAZING PRESENTATION, SO INFORMATIVE AND THE CHILDREN WERE JUST MESMERISED BY THE WONDERFUL ANIMALS HE BROUGHT ALONG. I'VE NEVER SEEN THEM SO ENGAGED FOR SO LONG! WOULD DEFINITELY RECOMMEND WEE CRITTERS. MY SCHOOL HAS ALREADY BOOKED HIM AGAIN FOR ANOTHER VISIT!

- Dickson Primary School







A WILD TIME AWAITS YOUR CLASS!





Keep up to date with Wee Critters news



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