

## Getting the most out of your visit

### Useful Information

- **Coaches** can pick up, drop off and park for free after 10am along the Kew Road, closest to the Victoria Gate.
- If you are **meeting a Kew teacher** for a booked activity the meeting point is at the roundabout unless otherwise arranged. Please see the attached map. If you have any problems on the day of your visit or you are going to be late, please call the Education Department on 020 8332 5627.
- It is likely that your group will be met at the Victoria Gate by a volunteer schools explainer who will move you through into the Gardens and be able to provide information for your day (maps, location of toilets, directions etc).
- The **schools lunch room**, called The Munch Box, is situated in Climbers and Creepers; approximately at 10 – 15 minute walk from the Palm House. You can make a reservation on the day of your visit by calling 020 8332 5965 from 11am. Unfortunately we are not able to store coats, bags or lunches for you throughout the day.
- **Climbers and Creepers** is a play area for children in Foundation-Year 3 only and must be booked in advance. If you turn up without a booking we will try our best to accommodate you but don't be offended if we turn you away!
- **Shopping:** The main childrens shop is located at White Peaks, near Climbers and Creepers. The shop at the Victoria Gate visitor centre also has a small selection of childrens gifts. Please note: Children are limited to 10 at a time, accompanied by an adult, if it is very busy in the shop please be patient as our staff find it difficult to cope with large numbers.
- You may wish to visit the **Volunteer Schools Explainers** who run rainforest related handling sessions in the Palm House most week days during term time. Most suitable for Key Stage 1 and 2.
- Where possible try and work in small groups within the glasshouses, this will benefit your students and our other visitors. We require a minimum supervision ratio of one adult to ten pupils and children under 16 must be accompanied at all times
- The main attractions of the Palm House and Princess of Wales conservatory can get very busy (and hot) in the summer months (May – July especially). You may wish to visit these at the end of your day when it will be less busy or plan activities around the other areas in the Gardens (e.g. Museum No.1, The Temperate House and The Badger Sett are all worth visiting)
- You are always welcome to contact the schools department prior to your visit. We will be more than happy to provide you with ideas and activities for a cross curricular visit
- Free copies of the Numeracy and Habitat Trails for Key Stage 2 are available from the education department or to download before you come from [www.kew.org/education/schtrails.html](http://www.kew.org/education/schtrails.html)
- Please ensure all adults in your group have a copy of this information, the map and the health and safety guidelines.

