



## BLUE PLANET AQUARIUM

### **Information and Tips for an Amazing Educational Visit to Blue Planet Aquarium**

**Important: For the comfort and safety of all of our visitors we must insist that your group be supervised at all times.**

If the fire alarm goes off during your visit then please make your way to the nearest emergency exit to leave the building. The fire assembly point is at the front of the building under the white canopy. All of our staff are fire evacuation trained and will assist in the evacuation.

#### **Arrival**

On arrival we recommend that the team leader make their way to reception to check in the group and collect details of the day's events. Then the children can come straight from the coach into Blue Planet without having to wait outside.

We recommend you divide your class into small supervised groups and start in different areas of the aquarium. Suggested starting points are *Northern Streams*, *Where the Land Meets the Sea* and *Aquatheatre*. If you have booked a classroom session please meet in the foyer 5 minutes before your session is due to start, a member of our education team will meet you there and take you through to the classroom.

#### **Diver Presentations**

Diver presentations will take place at certain times during your visit (see the board in the foyer for times), The diver show lasts about 25 minutes, and takes place in the *Aquatheatre*. They usually include a fish feed and an opportunity for the children to ask the divers questions.

#### **Lunch**

At lunchtime, weather permitting, we recommend that children eat their packed lunches outside on the picnic tables or in the Otter enclosure. You may also eat your packed lunches in our restaurant area, according to your slot allocation, or purchase pre-booked food at a 10% discount.

Your School Lunch Timetable ensures you have a 25 minute slot in our restaurant. It is important that your group arrives at the restaurant at the start of your slot, with your lunches, to ensure you and any other groups that are visiting all have their full time allocation.

When seating your group, please remember that other groups will be sharing the same slot. In view of this, please occupy as few tables as possible so as not to jeopardise the comfort of other groups.

**It is very important that groups stick to their allocated Lunch slots**

## **Shop**

If your children wish to purchase a wonderful memento of their visit to Blue Planet we suggest that you try to visit the shop in small groups at different times throughout the day. This will help to avoid long queues.

## **Toilets**

There are sets of toilets located on the right hand side of the foyer and in the restaurant. Disabled toilets can be found in the foyer and in the *rockpool* area.

## **Animal Encounters**

*Where the Land meets the Sea* contains two specially designed Rockpools that provide children with the opportunity to encounter a variety of animals including rays and starfish.

For the safety of the rays and the children we suggest only touching the animals on the top of their “wings”. Children can then wash their hands in the purpose built handwash area by *rockpool*. **No other areas of the aquarium are touch areas.**

During your visit remember to visit Hannah and Grace, both Asian short-clawed Otters. They have a new purpose built enclosure accessible through the shop.

## **Photo Ops**

Why not buy something different to remember the day by? Photographs of individuals or small groups are available upon request at an additional charge.

## **Storage**

We recommend that coats and bags (including packed lunches) are left on the coach, as it is not possible to store them inside Blue Planet.

**In order to achieve maximum benefit from your visit we recommend that each group explore the Aquarium each using the enclosed map. Due to continual development and improvement, exhibits may not be as indicated on the map.**

*Thank You*