

## **INFORMATION AND TIPS FOR A MAGICAL 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, pay for the visit and collect details of the day's events, and then the children can come straight from the coach into Blue Planet Aquarium without having to wait outside.

We recommend you divide your class into small supervised groups and start in different areas of Blue Planet Aquarium. Suggested starting points are Northern Streams, Where the Land Meets the Sea and the 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.

### **LUNCH**

At lunchtime and if the weather permits, we recommend that you eat your packed lunches outside on the picnic tables at the front of the building or next to the play area and Otter enclosure. Children are encouraged to take precautions in hot weather such as applying sun screen, wearing a hat and drinking plenty of water. You may also eat your packed lunches in our restaurant area, according to your slot allocation.

Your School Lunch Timetable ensures you have a 30 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 jeopardize the comfort of other groups. It is important that all groups stick to their allocated lunch slots.

### **SHOP**

If your children wish to purchase a wonderful memento of their visit to Blue Planet Aquarium 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. Try our new hassle free way to shop by pre-ordering our tailor-made education goody bags?

### **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 hand wash area by rockpool.

No other areas of the aquarium are touch areas.

During your visit remember to our Asian short-clawed Otters. They have a purpose built enclosure accessible through the shop, next to our outside adventure play area 'Pirate Playground'.

### **STORAGE**

We recommend that coats, bags and packed lunches are left on the coach, There is very limited space for storage inside Blue Planet and we offer the storage on a "first come first served" basis.

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

### **ENJOY YOUR VISIT!**