WINTERSHALL
Experience the story



Advent Travelling Crib Visiting School Guide

Suitable for EYFS, KS1 and KS2 children, our Advent Travelling Crib workshops are an excellent introduction to the Nativity story for schools of all faiths and none. They also encourage a deeper exploration of the meaning of Christmas for Christians.

We are bringing our interactive travelling crib, including a donkey, several sheep, a wise man and Mary, to a school field in your local area and are running workshops for the host school, as well as opening out the experience for other local schools. This experience is a truly unique and special way to celebrate Advent both in school and together with a wider community of schools.

The following information will provide you with everything you need to know about visiting a host school and how to prepare for it. If you require further information, please contact the Education Team by emailing schools@wintershall.org.uk

Why visit the Wintershall Travelling Crib?

- Amazing year group experience
- Short travelling distance so less travel costs
- Link in and share learning practices with local colleagues

Your host school will provide

- Suitable parking/drop off arrangements for coach/minibus
- An enthusiastic welcome to all, both faith and community schools
- A waiting space for your school and access to toilets for children/staff

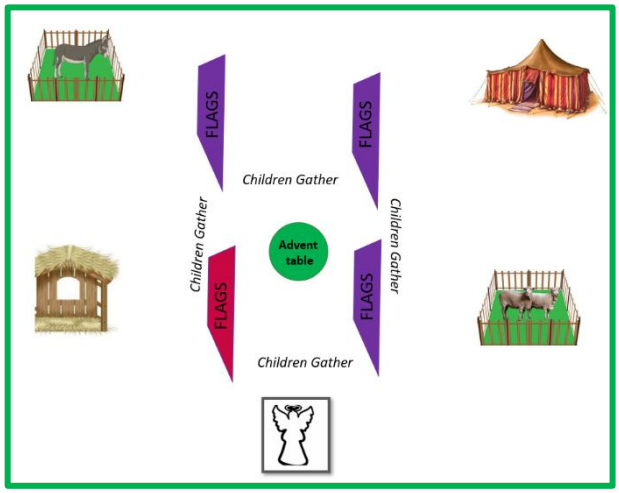
As a visiting school you will need

- the requisite adult/child ratios.

Workshop structure Every host school is different, so timetables will be adapted depending on school needs. The structure for each session will run as follows:

GATHER	In a circle around the Advent Wreath Flags.
INSPIRE	Begin your journey with the Wintershall Narrator.
EXPLORE	Divide into small groups. Meet the characters from the Nativity story. Groups rotate around all stations.
REFLECT	and WONDER with each character.
RESPOND	Collect an item at each stop to place in your story bag.
SEND	Gather together again in the Advent circle for the final reflection.

Layout for sample workshop with 5 stops.



Gift bags The Nativity characters will provide a gift for each child to put in their pilgrim bag, so that they can remember them on the journey. These bags can be used in class for follow up lessons and reflections until the end of term.

Weather Outdoor activities mean that weather, temperature, climate and light conditions may impact on your visit but they are an integral part of the Wintershall experience. Workshops will only be cancelled in the event of adverse weather conditions deemed by the Wintershall Team and School to pose a health and safety risk. In wet weather, the host school should allocate space for visiting groups, where they can wait before and after their workshop if needed. As this is an outdoor activity, visiting schools must ensure that children are dressed appropriately for the forecasted weather conditions.

Animal Handling All animals will be supervised by an animal handler. If children have contact with animals, they are provided with handwash to wash/wipe their hands. Individual school groups are asked to make the host school/Wintershall team aware of any animal allergies prior to the workshop. Animals will not stay overnight onsite, unless previously agreed with the host venue.

Education Guides and Wintershall Actors

are made aware of supervision procedures and responsibilities agreed prior to the sessions and a bridging letter has been supplied to the host school. All our Education Team have received safeguarding training and are briefed on the Child Protection Policy.

At all times, supervision of pupils within class groups is the direct responsibility of their teachers, and there must be the requisite adult to child ratios. Please ensure that teacher supervision is evenly spread throughout your group. We ask that teachers monitor pupil behaviour throughout the workshop.

First Aid

Immediate first aid assistance is the responsibility of the visiting schools nominated First aider.

Risk Assessment

Our Wintershall workshop risk assessment is available to accompany this document.

Teacher Resources

Classes can use the follow up resources to dig deeper into this incredible learning experience! We will provide you with a follow up teacher booklet and powerpoint to use in the weeks following the workshop. Class teachers can use them as part of RE lessons, or in class or whole school collective worship

School visit timetable

Below is a sample timetable for a two-day 2 form entry school with guests, with each workshop lasting 45 minutes. The capacity for a workshop is 64 children or 2 classes. Usually, host schools are allocated the first and last workshop of the day, as well as the one before lunch, to facilitate the visiting schools.

07:00 – 08:40		Wintershall Team arrive and set up scenery and props. Animals arrive.	
		DAY 1	DAY 2
8:50 – 9:35	Workshop 1	**Host School Year 2**	**Host School Year 1**
9:40-10:25	Workshop 2	**Visiting School**	**Visiting School**
10:30 – 11:15	Workshop 3	**Visiting School**	**Visiting School**
11:20 – 12:05	Workshop 4	**Host School Year 3**	**Host School Year 4**
12:50 – 13:35	Workshop 5	**Visiting School**	**Host School Year R**
13:40 – 14:25	Workshop 6	**Visiting School**	**Visiting School**
14:30 – 15:15	Workshop 7	**Host School Year 5**	**Host School Year 6**
15:30 16:30		Animals leave Actors and team pack up site and leave	

Email: schools@wintershall.org.uk or **call**: 01483 892167