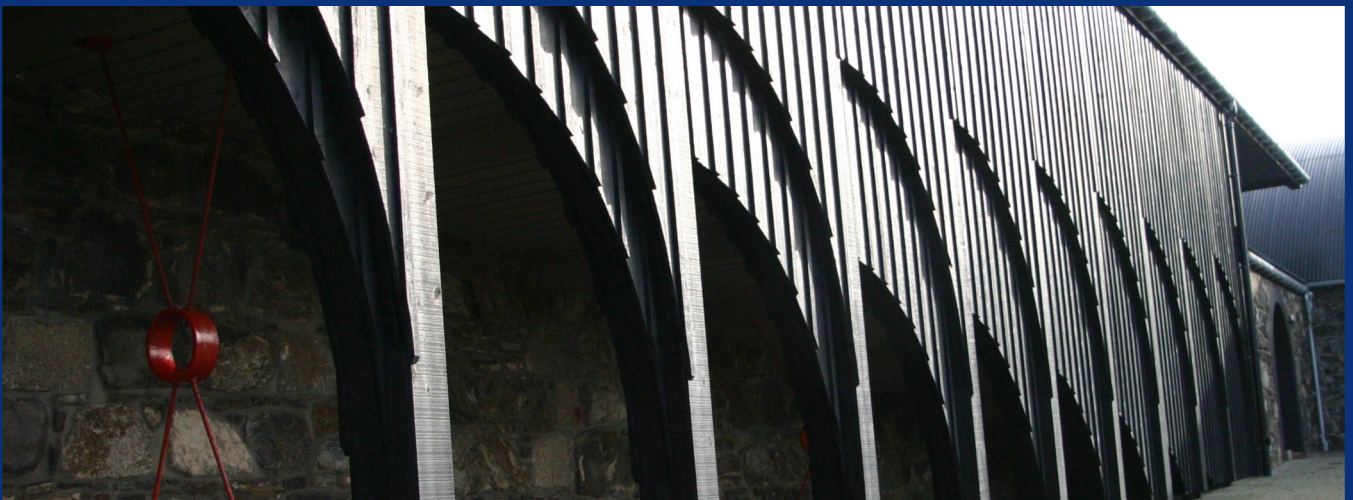




THE MUSEUM OF
SCOTTISH
LIGHTHOUSES

Nursery and Preschool Group Visit Pack



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Introduction

This School Visit Pack has been developed by the Museum of Scottish Lighthouses to support pre-school and nursery visits to the museum.

This resource contains practical information for your group visits. This includes a guide to our facilities, the activities that will take place on the day and the learning outcomes that a visit to the museum will provide, in accordance with the Curriculum for Excellence.

At the Museum of Scottish Lighthouses our purpose is to preserve, interpret and make accessible the industrial and maritime heritage of Scotland's lighthouses and the Northern Lighthouse Board. The Northern Lighthouse Board is the organisation that maintains all the marine navigation aids around Scotland and the Isle of Man.

The Museum of Scottish Lighthouses visit consists of two parts - our museum and our lighthouse.

Our purpose built museum contains several galleries housing a variety of lighthouse related objects that make up part of our accredited collection. On display are several artefacts that show what lighthouse keepers did and how lighthouses work.

Kinnaird Head Lighthouse is the first lighthouse in Scotland built by the Northern Lighthouse Board and was built into the structure of a 16th century castle. The lighthouse was first lit in 1787 and decommissioned in 1991, at which point the lighthouse keepers left. Visitors can climb right to the top of the lighthouse and see a demonstration of the lens mechanism inside. It is also possible to view the keeper's cottages where they lived with their families and now house museum displays.

The cost for nursery and pre-school groups is £2 per child and free for the accompanying adults.

We are open 10am - 5pm on Monday to Sunday during the summer (April to September) and Tuesday to Sunday during the winter (October to March).

To book a visit, or for further information, please call 01346 511022 and ask for Michael Strachan, our Collections Manager & Learning Officer, or email learning@lighthousemuseum.org.uk

Practical Information for Your Visit

Numbers

We can accommodate groups of up to 30 children per nursery/ preschool visit. Numbers have to be limited due to space in the lens room on the lighthouse tour (maximum 15 children), and space in the education room for the lighthouse activities.

If your group will be bigger than this, please tell the Learning and Access Officer and we will work out a way to accommodate you.

In addition to this, please let us know if any of the children have special requirements. The museum itself is fully accessible but Kinnaird Head Lighthouse is only accessible by a staircase and is therefore unsuitable for wheelchair users.

Risk Assessments

We will do a risk assessment at the museum before your trip takes place. Please let us know in advance if you require a copy of this risk assessment. The risk assessment is especially important if any members of your group are going on the lighthouse tour. Please see the description of the tour on page 5 for further information.

Facilities

There are two dedicated Education Rooms on the lighthouse site in the Principal Keeper's cottage that are put aside for your use. There will be space put aside in one of the rooms for your group to eat lunch or have a snack.

There are visitor toilets in the main museum building. There are male and female toilets, as well as a separate disabled toilet. All of these have a baby changing table inside. However there are no visitor toilets at the lighthouse site. The old keeper's bathroom next to the Education Room is still in working order and can be used.

There is ample space for car/bus parking outside the museum.

Activities at the Museum

We have a selection of activities for your group to do. The length of time and what activities we do will depend on how long you want to spend at the museum. You can choose a selection of the activities from the options below and on the following page.

When you contact us to book your visit, the Learning Officer will make up a programme of the activities for the day based around the needs and requirements of your group.

Lighthouse Tour

For the lighthouse tour the children will be taken around the lighthouse by a member of staff. The tour is age appropriate and tells story of a day in the life of a lighthouse keeper using repetitive action, for instance the winding action for the lens mechanism.

There are 69 steps and a ladder leading to the Light Room at the top and the tour stops at other rooms on each level on the way up, including the Paraffin Store, the Occasional Keeper's Quarters and the castle roof (weather permitting). The group then has to climb up a ladder to reach the Light Room at the top of the lighthouse. The ladder has handrails at each side and is inbuilt into the structure of the lighthouse. Once in the Light Room the guide will demonstrate the rotation of the lens.

The most difficult part of the tour for young children is the spiral staircase and ladder to the top. For the ladder we recommend that each child has an adult following right behind them as they climb up and down the ladder and an adult (usually the tour guide) helping the children at the top. On the staircase we would recommend that each child has an adult to hold their hand and that the children walk on the widest part of the staircase next to the wall.

The lighthouse tour is not compulsory and some may choose not to climb right to the top - i.e. they could climb the stairs but not go up the ladder into the light room.

Your group can then look around the Lighthouse Keepers' cottages, where the keepers stayed with their families. This includes having a look at a lighthouse keeper's bedroom and visiting our noisy engine room!

More Activities at the Museum

Lighthouse Model Making

Lighthouse Model Making takes place in the education room in the Principal Keeper's Cottage. For this the children will be required to colour and glue together a paper lighthouse shape. We will then tape a roof on top. This means that the children have something to take home that will remind them of their visit and what they have learnt.

Storytelling

A member of museum staff will tell a story to the children - usually one of the stories from the 'Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch' series of books!

Free Play—Selection of activities

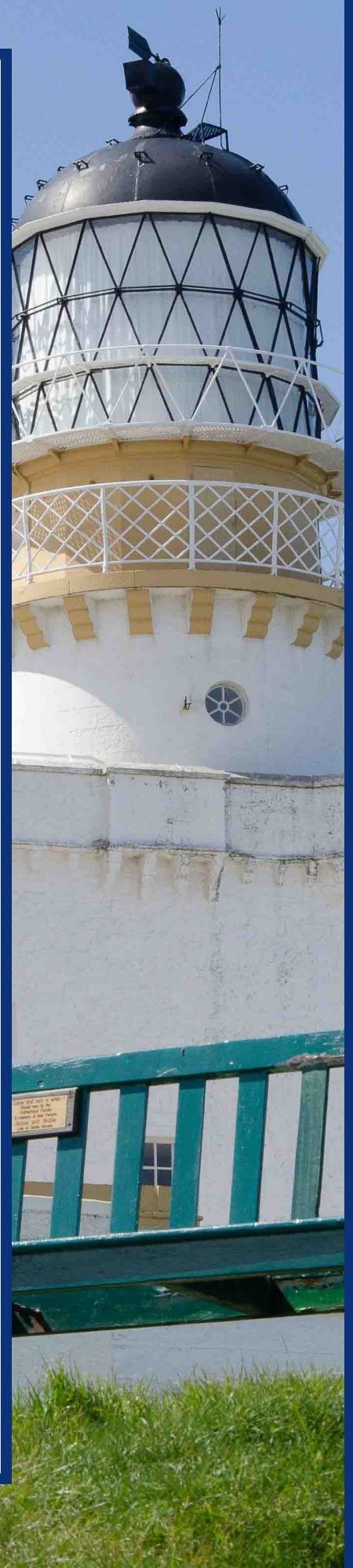
We can set up a selection of activities for the children to do in their own time. This includes lighthouse themed colouring in sheets, lighthouse water play, a simple jigsaw puzzle and building blocks.

Jigsaw Puzzle Treasure Hunt

For this game the children will hunt around the museum for different puzzle pieces to complete a puzzle of Kinnaird Head. When they have completed the puzzle they will get a special sticker as a prize!

Museum Walk

The children can also simply walk around the museum with a member of staff to look at the different objects and activities that are on permanent display. Children particularly like our massive lenses as they can see the colours of the rainbow in them.



Learning Outcomes

A visit to our museum is a memorable learning experience and can help to deliver the Curriculum for Excellence by meeting the four capacities it sets out.

Successful learners

At our museum the children will be introduced to a different environment , giving them new experiences to learn from. Through our activities they will be given the opportunity to use their imagination and creativity to learn different things.

Confident individuals

At the museum the children will be involved in a number of activities (such as climbing up the lighthouses or participating in the Jigsaw Treasure Hunt) that will give them the satisfaction of a task accomplished and give them success in different areas of activity.

Responsible citizens

Visiting this place of historical interest will help the children to begin to develop their knowledge and understanding of the world and Scotland's place in it. Furthermore by giving them an understanding of our local heritage we are encouraging them to take care of it in the future.

Effective contributors

The children are encouraged to work in teams as well as independently in different activities around the museum.

For any further information please contact our Learning Officer by calling 01346 511022 or emailing learning@lighthousemuseum.org.uk

