

Primary School and Nursery Programme 2025–26

*“A fun and
informative
experience for
young learners.”*

P7 teacher, Fife

Explore our
schools offer



Bookings open 11 Aug



National
Museums
Scotland

Spark curiosity, develop critical thinking skills, inspire students and enhance your learning and teaching with the help of our incredible collections.

Scottish history, science and technology, the natural world, sustainability, art and design and world cultures – we cover it all at our four national museums across Scotland, and online.

Our sessions are road tested by teachers, delivered by our learning team and align with the Curriculum for Excellence, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Meta-skills framework.

- **National Museum of Scotland Edinburgh** p3–4
- **National Museum of Flight East Lothian** p5
- **National Museum of Rural Life East Kilbride** p6
- **National War Museum Edinburgh** p7

Free online workshops and resources

Digital schools sessions

Bring the museum to your classroom with our live, interactive sessions. Led by our expert Learning team, these 30 min sessions bring ever-popular topics, including the Second World War, ancient Egypt, dinosaurs, the Romans, and the Vikings, directly to your pupils. Available Fridays during term time at 11:30.

Free booking required.

nms.ac.uk/digitalschools

Online resources

We offer a range of resources to support learning and teaching before, during and after your visit. Find a range of free trail sheets, films and games online.

nms.ac.uk/resources



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National Museum of Scotland

Chambers Street
Edinburgh EH1 1JF
0131 247 4041
schools@nms.ac.uk

Discover the history of Scotland, the wonders of nature and diverse cultures, scientific breakthroughs and exquisite art, design and fashion all under one roof.

Workshops run throughout the year, repeating every term on **Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday at 10:15 & 11:45.** Booking gives priority access to the cloak room and lunch space. Please visit our website for full details, workshop dates, and to request your visit.

Workshop & tour prices

£100 UK local authority schools
£150 Independent schools and non-UK schools
Free 20% of these sessions are available free of charge to schools in SIMD 1&2 areas and all special/ASL schools (Scotland only). Offer is subject to availability.

Early Years

Wee Explorers

NEW

Early level (Nursery–P1), 45 mins
Join us as we bring popular children's book *Max and Zap at the Museum* to life with object handling, stories, songs and rhymes.
Maximum capacity 25 children
For dates visit nms.ac.uk/weeexplorers

STEM

Mini Engineers

UPDATED

Early & first level (Nursery–P2), 60 mins
Pupils become engineers to help fix the museum's broken lighthouse. Learning through play, they explore early engineering concepts through fun STEM challenges.
Maximum capacity 25 children
For dates visit nms.ac.uk/miniengineers

A Dinosaur Adventure

Early & first level (P1–P3), 60 mins
Come dinosaur hunting with us. This immersive workshop uses objects, movement and role-play to learn about these fascinating animals. ASN and Nursery versions available.
For dates visit nms.ac.uk/dinoadventure

Museum on the Move

FREE

First & second level (P3–P4 & P5–P7), 60 mins
In this hands-on session, pupils help us plan to move our famous Bulldog aeroplane. Working together they solve a series of maths-related problems, culminating in an exciting coding challenge.
Developed in partnership with Maths Week Scotland
For dates visit nms.ac.uk/scotlandonthemove

Animal Adaptations

Second level (P5–P7), 60 mins
Investigate the many ways animals adapt to their environments, handle objects and complete our bird beak experiment.
For dates visit nms.ac.uk/animaladaptations

Energy Explorer

NEW

Second level (P5–P7), 75 mins
Visit the *Energise* gallery to explore energy transfer, discover the history of energy production in Scotland, and take part in our wind turbine building challenge.
For dates visit nms.ac.uk/energyexplorer



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Social Studies

An Egyptian Adventure

Early & first level (P1–P2), 60 mins

Using story, movement and drama, go on an adventure to the coronation of a new pharaoh. Exploring objects from the marketplace, temple and River Nile, learn about daily life in ancient Egypt. ASN version available.

For dates visit nms.ac.uk/egyptianadventure

Egypt Explorer

UPDATED

First & second level (P3–P5), 75 mins

How and why were Egyptian objects brought to the museum here in Scotland? Visit our *Ancient Egypt Rediscovered* gallery, get hands on with incredible objects and look beyond the pharaohs and the pyramids to learn more about the history of ancient Egypt.

Please note there are mummified human remains on display in the gallery.

For dates visit nms.ac.uk/egyptexplorer

Roman Explorer

First & second level (P3–P5), 75 mins

Go on a tour of our *Early People* gallery to discover Roman objects and investigate the stories they reveal about domestic and military life.

For dates visit nms.ac.uk/romanexplorer

Viking Explorer

First & second level (P3–P5), 75 mins

Become archaeologists on a tour of our *Early People* gallery. Explore the lives of everyday people and investigate evidence from a real Viking burial.

Please note pupils will look at real skeletons and Viking graves as part of this workshop.

For dates visit nms.ac.uk/vikingexplorer

Sustainability

Eco Explorer

NEW

First & second level (P4–P5), 75 mins

Explore Scotland's biodiversity with this gallery tour, object handling session and discussion considering solutions to our environmental challenges. Adapted versions of this workshop are available to complement a visit to *Monkeys: Our Primate Family* and *Giants* (p7).

For dates visit nms.ac.uk/ecoexplorer

Study Day

Museum Stories

First & second level (P4–P7), 60 min show plus 45 min handling session

These special study days allow pupils to meet our curators, ask them questions and challenge them in an interactive quiz. They will also handle real artefacts and tour our galleries.

£5 per pupil

Museum Stories:

Ancient Egypt

For dates visit nms.ac.uk/museumstoriesegypt

Museum Stories:

Vikings in Scotland

NEW

For dates visit nms.ac.uk/museumstoriesvikings

Tours

First level to senior phase, 60 mins

Explore our galleries with a guided session, led by our Learning team.

Museum Explorer

A highlights tour perfect for first time visits.

For dates visit nms.ac.uk/museumexplorer

Scotland Explorer

NEW

On this interactive gallery tour, discover the truth behind some of Scotland's iconic historical figures, including Bonnie Prince Charlie, Mary Queen of Scots and James VI and I.

For dates visit nms.ac.uk/scotlandexplorer

Self-led tour

FREE

Explore your choice of topic with a free visit. Download resources and trails to support your trip, where available. Please note cloakroom and lunch space is subject to availability.

nms.ac.uk/scotlandselfled

National Museum of Flight

East Fortune Airfield
East Lothian EH39 5LF
0131 247 4238
schoolsnmof@nms.ac.uk

Explore the history of aviation from the First World War to the present day at this former airfield. Here pupils can find out more about the World Wars, science and technology.

Workshops run on set dates throughout

the year, repeating every term on

Wednesday & Thursday at 10:15 &

11:45. Booking gives priority access to the

cloakroom and lunch space, plus a staff

member or volunteer guiding your visit.

Please visit our website for full details,

workshop dates, and to request your visit.

Workshop prices

£100 UK local authority schools

£150 Independent schools and non-UK schools

Free 20% of these sessions are available free of charge to schools in SIMD 1&2 areas and all special/ASL schools (Scotland only). Free coach travel is also available to support these visits. Offer is subject to availability.

Early Years

Transport

Early Level (P1–P2), 60 mins

Learn about things that fly through interactive activities, including movement, song, trying on real flying clothing, and exploring the museum to uncover the stories behind our aircraft.

For dates visit nms.ac.uk/transport

STEM

Fantastic Flying Forces

Second level (P5–P7), 60 mins

Conduct experiments to learn more about the forces involved in flight and discover how aeroplanes fly. Then continue the learning in the rest of the museum, including interactive gallery, *Fantastic Flight*.

For dates visit nms.ac.uk/flyingforces

Museum on the Move

FREE

First & second level (P3–P4 & P5–P7), 60 mins

In this hands-on session, pupils delve into practical problem-solving, focusing on the real-world logistics of relocating the iconic Concorde. Working together they solve a series of maths-based challenges, culminating in a removal truck coding challenge.

Developed in partnership with Maths Week Scotland

For dates visit nms.ac.uk/flightonthemove

Social Studies

Second World War Scotland

Second level (P5–P7), 60 mins

What was life like at RAF East Fortune in wartime? Meet our costumed interpreter, investigate real objects to discover the human stories behind them, then take part in our escape challenge.

For dates visit nms.ac.uk/secondworldwarscotland



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Free visits

A visit to the museum can be used to explore a wide range of topics. Free self-led visits can be booked during term time in Apr–Oct. A self-led visit provides you with:

- Free entry to the museum
- Links to a range of downloadable resources
- Access to a cloakroom and lunch space, subject to availability.

For more information visit

nms.ac.uk/flightselfled

National Museum of Rural Life

Wester Kitchside
East Kilbride G76 9HR
0131 247 4377
schoolsnmorl@nms.ac.uk

Experience life in the countryside and explore learning for sustainability at our museum, farmhouse and historic working farm.

Workshops run on set dates throughout the year, repeating every term on **Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday** at **10:30 & 11:45**. Booking gives priority access to the cloak room and lunch space. Please visit our website for full details, workshop dates, and to request your visit.

Workshop prices

£100 UK local authority schools
£150 Independent schools and non-UK schools
Free 20% of these sessions are available free of charge to schools in SIMD 1&2 areas and all special/ASL schools (Scotland only). Offer is subject to availability.

Sustainability

Butter Making

Early, first & second level (P1–P4 & P5–P7), 60 mins
In this fun, hands-on workshop pupils discover where milk, cream and butter come from, then churn and taste their own butter. They will also visit our working farm and meet the Ayrshire dairy cows that live there.

For dates visit nms.ac.uk/butter

Farm to Fork

Early, first & second level (Nursery–P1, P2–P4 & P5–P7), 60 mins

Our interactive workshop and farm visit encourages pupils to think about what's in their food and where it comes from through fun games and challenges. Sessions are tailored to level.

Maximum capacity 25 children for Nursery–P1 session

For dates visit nms.ac.uk/farmtofork

Ice Cream Making

Early, first & second level (P1–P4 & P5–P7), 60 mins
In this delicious session pupils will learn all about the ice cream making process, then use local ingredients to craft and taste their very own ice cream creations.

For dates visit nms.ac.uk/icecream

Social Studies

Second World War: Evacuees

Second level (P5–P7), 75 mins

It's 1939 and your class has just been evacuated to Wester Kitchside Farm. Experience life as an evacuee in the countryside during the Second World War in this immersive session.

For dates visit nms.ac.uk/evacuees

STEM

Museum on the Moo-ve

FREE

First & second level (P3–P4 & P5–P7), 60 mins

In this interactive session, pupils use maths-related problem solving to help us work out how to move Nora, our award winning Ayrshire cow, from the farm to a local farm show.

Developed in partnership with Maths Week Scotland

For dates visit nms.ac.uk/ruralonthemove

Free visits

A visit to the museum can be used to explore a wide range of topics. Booking a self-led visit provides you with:

- Free entry to the museum and working farm
- Links to a range of resources you can download for free
- Access to a cloakroom and lunch space, subject to availability.

For more information visit nms.ac.uk/ruralselfled

National War Museum

Edinburgh Castle
EH1 2NG
0131 247 4041
schools@nms.ac.uk

Learn about the story of Scotland at war, within the walls of Edinburgh Castle.

Workshops run on set **Mondays** throughout the year at **10:15 & 11:45** and include free entry to Edinburgh Castle. Please visit our website for full details, workshop dates, and to request your visit.

Workshop prices

£100 UK local authority schools
£150 Independent schools and non-UK schools
Free 20% of these sessions are available free of charge to schools in SIMD 1&2 areas and all special/ASL schools (Scotland only). Offer is subject to availability.

Social Studies

Second World War Explorer

Second level (P5–P7), 75 mins

Join members of our Learning team to investigate the lives of people who lived through the war, including an evacuee and a prisoner of war, revealed through the objects they left behind. Session includes a visit to the museum galleries.

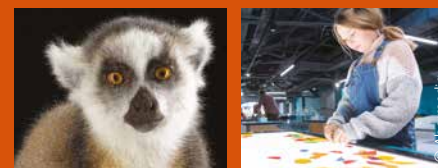
Please note the Wartime Life Room is located on the third floor with no lift access.

For dates visit nms.ac.uk/worldwarexplorer



Don't miss

Schools exhibition slots available Mon & Wed, 10:00–12:00. Enhance your visit with our Eco Explorer: Monkeys and Giants workshops (p4).



Monkeys: Our Primate Family

28 Jun–30 Nov 2025

Come face to face with our primate relatives through more than 50 taxidermy specimens, including monkeys, lemurs and apes.

Free, booking required
nms.ac.uk/monkeys

Giants

31 Jan–14 Sep 2026

Go on a journey through time to discover the giant creatures that lived after the extinction of the dinosaurs.

£4 per pupil, booking required
nms.ac.uk/giants

Maths Week Scotland

22–28 September 2025

Don't miss a range of fun-filled and inspiring maths activities taking place at our museums and at venues across Scotland. This year's theme is Wild Maths.

Find out more at mathsweek.scot

Schools enews

Sign up to our regular schools enews to keep up to date with our schools activities throughout the year.
nms.ac.uk/schoolssignup

