**To Consider Before Booking**

**Life on a Tudor Farm – Booking Procedure and General Workshop Information**

* **If you do not feel your children will enjoy dressing up in Tudor costume, then this may not be the workshop for you.**
* Please visit our website regularly for details of other workshops.
* **Wearing costume is a requirement for this learning experience**. If your child has any medical requirements or allergies to any of the natural materials as the activities will be taking place on a living history site, please get in touch before booking.
* **This particular session is a Key Stage 2 workshop, we are only able to take children aged 7 to 12 years.**
* Places are allocated on a first come, first serve basis and are **not secured until we have received both payment and your booking form.**
* You can either pay via credit card over the phone by calling: 01789 207131 or via cheque made payable to *The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust*.
* All places are **non-refundable** so please make sure you are definitely able to attend before booking.
* Once we have processed your payment and form, you will be sent a confirmation letter to secure your place.
* For families and younger/older children, they are welcome on the site for an additional charge. There are a number of things for them to see and do independently whilst they are here. However they will not participate in the workshop activities.
* **Any accompanying female adults of child-bearing age should be aware that there are sometimes pregnant ewes, cows, goats and pigs on this farm.**
* To find out more about our other Home Educator sessions for older children, please check our website for any updates.

**Life on a Tudor Farm – General workshop information**

* The workshop is held at Mary Arden’s Farm, in Wilmcote just outside of Stratford-upon-Avon.
* Parking on-site is free of charge.
* Registration opens at 9.45am for a prompt 10.00am start. The workshop finishes at 2.45pm. A breakdown of timings will be sent closer to the day.
* There is a break for lunch and there is plenty of space to eat. There is also an on-site café where Tudor food is available to purchase. During the lunch break you will have the option to observe the Tudor dinner.
* Once the workshop is finished, you are welcome to stay on the site independently until it closes at 5.00pm.
* Adults and other family members **will not be able to wear Tudor dress**. Only the children participating will wear it.
* During the day the children undertake a number of hands-on activities across the site, for which we will divide the children into smaller “working” groups of no more than 7. Occasionally for operational reasons, we may need to make some last minute adjustments to the working group numbers.
* Space is limited in the Tudor Kitchen and we cannot guarantee that all accompanying parents/adults will be able to watch the bread making experience.
* Pushchairs are not allowed in the Arden workshop (but they are still allowed on the site).

**Getting Tudor Dressed:**

The children’s first task of the day will be to get Tudor-dressed. Only then will they be able to walk across the Tudor farmyard to Palmer’s Farm - and into another world . . .

* All girls and boys will be provided with a full set of replica Tudor clothes (but not shoes) and it usually takes about 30 minutes to transform your 21st century children into their Tudor ancestors.
* **For privacy reasons, we will ask parents to step outside whilst the children dress themselves in replica clothing. They will be supervised and assisted when necessary by our all-female DBS checked Heritage Staff members.**
* The garments are all made from either linen or wool (the only fabrics available to workaday Tudors) and have appropriate fastenings – no zips, Velcro or elastic in sight, but plenty of buttons, ties and laces! These garments have been beautifully made to the highest specifications and we would ask for your help in taking care of them, both in putting them on and taking them off. If a garment does not seem to fit on or want to come off please tell your children to ask for help - not to struggle or tug as this would only result in damage or tearing. If buttons or laces should fall off, please return them to us so that we can make repairs later.
* After an initial introduction (which parents are welcome to attend). The clothes are explained to the children, boys and girls change in separate curtained areas of the Education Room and are provided with storage boxes for their modern clothes.
* Please ensure that all children are wearing underwear. As we ask that both boys and girls remove all their 21st Century clothes **except** for pants and socks. Vests may be left on only if they do not show – a brightly coloured t-shirt showing itself around a Tudor neckline is somewhat distracting! Girls are provided with linen smocks, and boys with linen shirts. These are almost identical in shape and design, and generally not size specific. As these are worn next to the body they are laundered after **every** visit and are always clean for every child.
* On top of this girls wear a kirtle – a long dress made of wool and lined with linen. The kirtles are sized and the girls will be lined up in height order when they come to collect them from the clothes rails to help us to distribute them more efficiently. The kirtles are fastened at the front by one long lace that is fixed at the top and laced down to the waist – in spiralling ‘shoe shop’ fashion so that it can be adjusted to fit comfortably. The open fronts of the kirtle may fasten closely, edge to edge, or widely, with a coloured placard (a flat A4 sized insertion) that is placed against the chest, between the kirtle edges, and laced into position. It is very difficult for girls to lace themselves into their kirtles and usually they need help with this, although dexterous girls may be able to help each other. Some kirtles have short sleeves, others have sleeves that are pulled on to above the elbow (like long gloves but without hands) and some have separate sleeves that are tied in place on the shoulder. All girls are also provided with linen aprons which are to be used whenever necessary to protect the expensive wool of their kirtles from being soiled.
* Boys wear tight-fitting jackets, known as doublets, and loose- fitting trousers, called breeches. These also are made from wool and lined with linen. Most, but not all, of these have four sets of holes inside the doublets at waist level that match up with corresponding pairs of holes on the waistband of the breeches. Four short laces known as points are used to fasten these two garments together. It is almost impossible for boys to tie these laces and they always need help with this. The laces must be tied tightly enough to prevent the trousers from falling down, but not so tightly that when a boy bends down or sits down, his clothes burst apart! Leather belts are used for breeches that do not have tie fastenings. As with the girls’ kirtles, the boys’ doublets and breeches are sized, the boys will be lined up in height order to collect their clothes from the rails.
* Both boys and girls wear knitted Tudor socks, known as hose. These are very long and are worn over the knees. They have all been hand-knitted (in stocking stitch) are held in place by tying knitted garters (worked in garter stitch) just under the knee.
* For comfort **only** we suggest that your children wear thin modern socks under these potentially itchy leggings! We do not have any replica Tudor shoes but have found that the children’s normal, sturdy shoes do fit over the woollen socks. We do recommend, however, that children do not wear new shoes or wellington boots on these days!
* Boys’ pull-on Tudor hats come in two styles – small, close fitting Monmouth (beanie) caps and the larger, more floppy Henrician (pancake-style) caps.
* The girls’ close-fitting linen coifs are harder to put on and wear. The girls need to have all their hair swept back from the faces - long hair needs to be plaited and fringes tied back – and then not only does fitting the caps become easy, they also stay in place for the rest of the day. **Please ask girls with long hair to do the necessary hairdressing before the workshop.**

At the end of the session all socks and all linen items – smocks, shirts, aprons and coifs - are collected for washing. Outer clothes are not laundered but they are regularly brushed, frozen during the summer holidays and dry cleaned as necessary during the winter.

**We really want you and your children to enjoy their visit and to get the most from it. If you need further information or clarification on any of the above points, please contact Nicola Hawley by telephone on (01789) 201849 by email to** [**nicola.hawley@shakespeare.org.uk**](mailto:nicola.hawley@shakespeare.org.uk)**.**