

TUNBRIDGE WELLS  
MUSEUM &  
ART GALLERY



## Primary Schools

# Teacher's information Pack

## Key Stage 1 and 2



This pack has been created to help you plan your visit to Tunbridge Wells Museum & Art Gallery. We want your trip to be as educational and enjoyable as possible.

Inside this pack you will find information about how to get to the museum, the education sessions available, how to book and risk assessment information.

Please read the information as carefully as possible and if you have any further questions please contact us [museum@tunbridgewells.gov.uk](mailto:museum@tunbridgewells.gov.uk)

[www.tunbridgewellsmuseum.org](http://www.tunbridgewellsmuseum.org)

# Tunbridge Wells Museum & Art Gallery

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Tunbridge Wells Museum & Art Gallery is a free, award-winning, family-friendly local museum offering visitors a variety of fascinating exhibitions and special events.

*Did you know Tunbridge Wells is the home of the table football game Subbuteo?*

You can see the world's largest public collection of Tunbridge Ware, enjoy an outstanding collection of costume, art and toys, and find out more about the local area.

Throughout the year, the Museum offers a range of free, high-quality events for all ages. Events include evening talks, family fun days, guided walks and art workshops, giving families and friends the chance to enjoy themselves right here in the heart of Tunbridge Wells.



The Art Gallery hosts a constantly changing programme of historic and contemporary art and culture.

Tunbridge Wells Museum & Art Gallery offers a wide-ranging formal and informal learning programme for all ages. This includes taking objects out to local schools, residential homes and community centres, as well as delivering a variety of art, history and science-based workshops for children and adults at the Museum.

Take a closer look at Tunbridge Wells Museum & Art Gallery and be inspired.

## Contact us:

Telephone number: 01892 554171

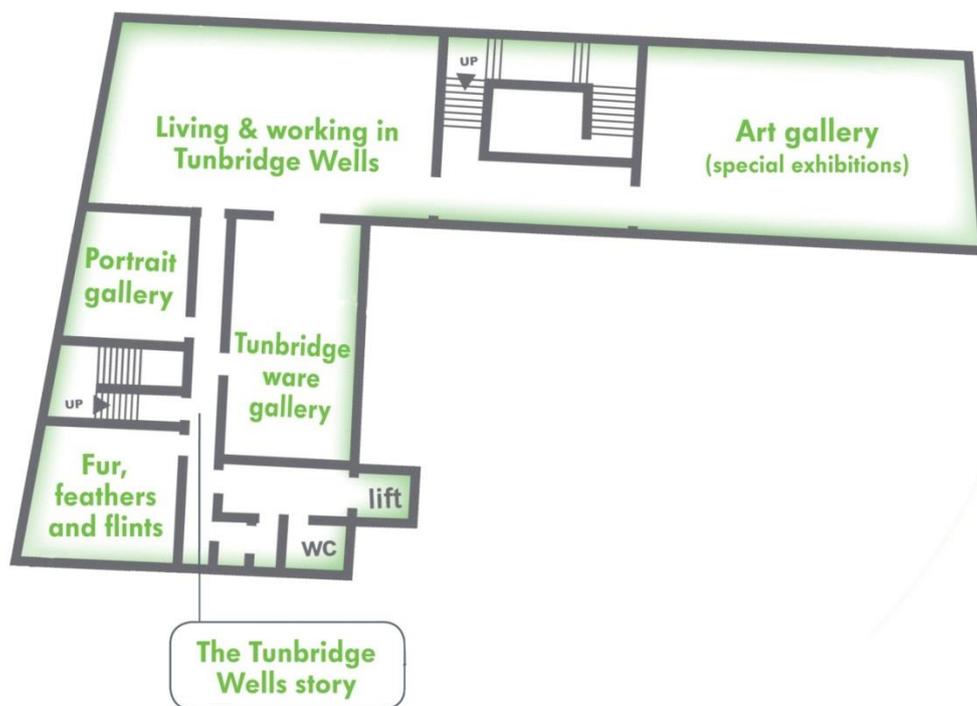
Email: [museum@tunbridgewells.gov.uk](mailto:museum@tunbridgewells.gov.uk)

**Civic Centre, Mount Pleasant,  
Royal Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1JN**

[www.tunbridgewellsmuseum.org](http://www.tunbridgewellsmuseum.org)

## Gallery Lay-out

Tunbridge Wells Museum & Art Gallery is located on the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor



## Getting Here

### Arriving by Coach

We have no coach parking available on site, however you will be able to drop off and pick up in front of the museum. Coaches will then need to park elsewhere for the duration of your visit.

### Arriving by Train

There is a ten minute uphill walk from the train station to the museum. There are regular Southeastern train services to Tunbridge Wells from London and Hastings, please contact Southeastern for further details of services.

### Arriving on Foot

The museum is located in the centre of the town, in the large municipal building shared with the library.

[www.tunbridgewellsmuseum.org](http://www.tunbridgewellsmuseum.org)

## What visit would suit you?

The Learning Service at TW MAG offers sessions on many curriculum topics, some of which are delivered on site and others which are offered in the classroom as outreach.

The types of visits available at Tunbridge Wells Museum & Art Gallery:

### 1. Guided Sessions with the learning team

Sessions on site last approximately **an hour and a half**, which includes time spent in the galleries, and formal learning focussing on your chosen topic.

Sessions at the museum are led by experienced educators. Sessions can accommodate up to **thirty students** and their accompanying adults. Please discuss your requirements when booking.

Your group will be located in the 'Art Gallery.' As the Museum is limited for space, groups are likely to be split up so as to ensure the most comfortable and rewarding experience possible for students.

### 2. Self Guided visits

You are more than welcome to come and visit the museum as an independent group. There is no charge for this service however it is advisable to let us know in advance, so that your visit doesn't clash with another group. We can provide trails and learning resources to accompany your visit. Please contact us in advance to organise these.

### 3. Outreach

Outreach sessions last approximately an hour and are led by a member of our learning team.

We offer a wide variety of sessions off site which include discussions, object handling and a craft activity.

Outreach sessions can accommodate groups of over thirty students. Please discuss your requirements with us.

## Education sessions

All of our education sessions make full use of the museum and collection, allowing students to handle artefacts, explore the museum and complete a craft activity.

Each session has been tailored to a specific area of the National Curriculum, allowing you to make links to your own topics within school. We offer sessions for both Key Stages 1 and 2.

### Archaeology - From Stone to Iron

Our archaeology session explores the 'stone age' and it's importance to the development of civilization. Utilizing the museum's archaeology collection, students handle objects up to 40,000 years old, learning key terminology and the difference between the Stone, Bronze and Iron ages.

### Dinosaurs & Fossils

An introduction to the world of fossils and a great way to get young minds excited about the past with the opportunity to handle real dinosaur fossils.

### Evolution – Darwin, Wallace and the Great Game

Explore the idea of evolution and how some of the greatest scientific minds came to this conclusion. Look at the biological arms race between predators and prey, and ask the important question: How did we get here?

### Introducing – History!

Our Introducing: History! Session is designed for those discovering the topic for the first time. Explore chronological understanding, past events and change over time. Students will understand what places like museums and art galleries do, and how they can be used to find out about the past.

### Life (Science – Classification & Biology)

This session explores one of the strangest things to have ever happened on planet Earth: life. Using our natural history collection, and the Linnaean system of classification, explore the similarities and differences between all living things ending finally with the strangest living thing of all, Homo sapiens.

### Local History – Royal Tunbridge Wells

A study of the history of Tunbridge Wells from the iron age. This session will cover the tale of Lord North and the Spa, local industries (past and present), the founding of the Pantiles, Beau Nash and the growth of the town into the modern era.

[www.tunbridgewellsmuseum.org](http://www.tunbridgewellsmuseum.org)

### **Make it Move**

Explore the nature of moving vehicles and the materials & technology required for them to function using our extensive toy collection. Concepts such as: gravity, friction, pushes & pulls, balance, spinning/centrifugal force will be explored along with Potential and Kinetic energy and electricity.

### **Mini beasts**

This session uses our very extensive etymology collection to explore the small creatures which share our world and help make it what it is. Children will get to handle dragonflies, beetles, bumble bees and butterflies as they explore the difference between insects and other creatures.

### **Playtime Past**

Playtime Past looks at the changing nature of toys over the past 150 years using our extensive toy collection, and some items of contemporary collecting. We look at the notion of what toys are trying to 'teach' us about the world as well as the materials from which they are made.

### **Tessellated Tunbridge Ware**

Focusing on our Tunbridge Ware collection (the largest in the world), this session looks at the mosaics so often found on these unique pieces of art, how to define a mosaic and to recognize tessellation and create tessellating patterns.

### **The Ancients – Egypt, Greece & Rome**

The Ancients gives children an overview of the ancient Western civilizations, and relate them to one another. The session will explore the chronology of the period and how each civilization influenced and inspired one another.

### **Victorian Childhood Home**

Designed to answer the question 'what was it like to live in the past,' Victorian Childhood Home is a session which explores the everyday lifestyle of a child in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. These sessions relies on the handling of Objects in our extensive toy collection.

## Cost

All our education services are presently offered **free of charge** to schools located within the Borough of Tunbridge Wells, as we feel it is the duty of the museum not only to hold objects that reflect the history of Tunbridge Wells, but to educate and engage with the local community.

If, however, you would like to support our work we would encourage you and your students to make use of our well stocked gift shop. The proceeds from our shop go directly to supporting the upkeep of the collection and keeping our services free and available to all.

Alternatively, the school can make a donation to 'Tunbridge Wells Museum & Art Gallery' – the average donation for a schools session is about £50.

Schools outside of the Borough are welcome to access our education service for a small charge.

## Booking process

Contact us on:

**01892 554171** or

**[museum@tunbridgewells.gov.uk](mailto:museum@tunbridgewells.gov.uk)**

**Please provide the following information:**

1. Group leader name and contact details
2. Number of students and adults in the group
3. Which session you would like to book
4. Whether it is a Museum or outreach session
5. A list of possible dates
6. Any special educational needs or access requirements

**[www.tunbridgewellsmuseum.org](http://www.tunbridgewellsmuseum.org)**

## Risk assessment information

### Teacher pre-visits are welcome and encouraged.

Teachers are encouraged to visit the museum, have a look around the site and carry out their own risk assessment. For your own risk assessment please note:

- Students remain the responsibility of teachers and accompanying adults whilst on site. Our accompanying adult to child ratio is 1:8 or 1:10
- Please be aware that as a museum we open to the public, Tuesdays to Saturdays 9:30am-5pm. This means that members of the public will be in the museum whilst you are here.
- First aid is the responsibility of teachers and accompanying adults whilst on site, however we do have trained first aiders and a first aid kit available. Please ensure you have your own provision for first aid.
- Please note the museum and art gallery is located on the first floor of the building. A lift with access to all floors is available if needed.
- We have one disabled access toilet on site in the museum. We can arrange to use the toilet in the library on the ground floor if necessary.
- All museum staff and volunteers facilitating education sessions have been vetted and DBS checked.
- All practical activities have been fully risk assessed.

If you would like a copy of our schools risk assessment then please email: [museum@tunbridgewells.gov.uk](mailto:museum@tunbridgewells.gov.uk) or visit our website where you can download a copy.

Please contact us in advance if you or any of your group has specific **access arrangements**.

### Lunch

Unfortunately as we are a small museum we don't have a lunch room on site. If it is a fair weather day there are plenty of parks and green spaces in the town. If you are planning to visit another venue in town, they might be able to provide a lunch space.

### Cloakroom

We usually hang coats on rails and bags are tucked under benches during the session.

[www.tunbridgewellsmuseum.org](http://www.tunbridgewellsmuseum.org)

## Make a day of it

We recognise that the cost of hiring a coach goes up year on year and that this may make it more difficult to get out to the museum.

Have you considered spending a full day in Royal Tunbridge Wells?

There are many fantastic attractions and sites to see in Tunbridge Wells before or after a visit to the Museum & Art Gallery, many of which have special offers for groups of students:

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### **Tunbridge Wells Library (We share a building – the perfect idea for poor weather)**

The library offers a range of services to schools including introductory library talks, guided library visits, bespoke sessions, teachers pack.

**To book a guided visit contact:** Susan Rogers

[Susan.Rogers@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Susan.Rogers@kent.gov.uk) or 03000 417950.

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### **Assembly Hall Theatre [www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk](http://www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk)**

**Contact:** Cheri Strudwick

[Cheri.Strudwick@Tunbridgewells.gov.uk](mailto:Cheri.Strudwick@Tunbridgewells.gov.uk) or 01892 530613

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### **Trinity Theatre [www.trinitytheatre.net](http://www.trinitytheatre.net)**

**School offer includes:** Tour of the theatre (Heritage of the theatre or how a theatre works), visit to the gallery exhibition, technical theatre talks or private film or theatre showings (dependent upon the current artistic programme)

**Contact:** Bethan Minter, Engagement Officer

[bethan@trinitytheatre.net](mailto:bethan@trinitytheatre.net)

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### **BBC South-East Studios**

**Tel:** 01892 670000

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### **The Pantiles**

[www.tunbridgewellsmuseum.org](http://www.tunbridgewellsmuseum.org)

**Guided Walks available!** Guided walks would normally last just over one hour, starting on the Pantiles including a visit to the Chalybeate Spring. The cost is £4.00 per person. The blue badge guides can adapt the tour to cover specific periods in history e.g Victorians. To book contact:

[touristinformationcentre@tunbridgewells.gov.uk](mailto:touristinformationcentre@tunbridgewells.gov.uk) or 01892 515675

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**Spa Valley Railway** [www.spavalleyrailway.co.uk](http://www.spavalleyrailway.co.uk)

The Spa Valley railway run Steam and 1960s Diesel hauled trains so have quite a selection of types of train, including the exact train that operated on the day the railway was closed in 1985.

Children travel at the standard travel rate (either £5.50 or £4.50 dependent on what day it is) , teachers travel free, additional parents are charged at either £11 or £10 dependent on the day of the week.

**Contact: Jonnie Wesson, General Manager**

Email: [jonnie.wesson@spavalleyrailway.co.uk](mailto:jonnie.wesson@spavalleyrailway.co.uk)

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All are easily walkable from our front door, and we would be happy to provide you with a map of the area as part of your booking.

[www.tunbridgewellsmuseum.org](http://www.tunbridgewellsmuseum.org)