

Wild about Scotland bus comes to Broomhouse

Pupils at Broomhouse Primary in Edinburgh were able to experience a series of interactive Scottish wildlife lessons on Monday thanks to a specially designed double-decker education bus currently touring Scotland.

The 'Wild about Scotland' bus* is visiting schools in Edinburgh as part of a wider campaign being brought to all of Scotland's 32 local councils over the next 12 months. The programme has been developed by the Royal Zoological Society for Scotland (RZSS) and has been made possible through a partnership between Clydesdale Bank and the RZSS to support the charity in its conservation goals across Scotland.



P5 and P6 pupils from Broomhouse Primary got to get their hands dirty in a variety of interactive and fun lessons which focused on Scottish native species, their habitats and environments. Lessons were delivered by a dedicated education team from RZSS.

Chris West, CEO of the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, said: "Conservation through education is one of the founding principles behind the Society and remains one of our key goals to this day.

"We believe connecting young people in Edinburgh to the natural world is vital and the 'Wild about Scotland' outreach programme will further add to the curriculum based learning delivered each year by the Society. Importantly, now more than ever, preserving and learning about the huge variety of wildlife living in Scotland, and how children may help make a

difference in the conservation of that wildlife, is of huge worth.”

Helen Page, Customer Experience and Marketing Director at Clydesdale Bank said:

“RZSS makes a vital contribution to the conservation of Scotland’s wildlife, both through direct preservation and its commitment to educating the public on endangered species, habitats and ecosystems. We’re proud to be joining forces with them to help deliver this educational programme to primary schools in Edinburgh.

“Our support will enable them to bring the ‘Wild about Scotland’ programme to young people not only in Edinburgh, but to communities across Scotland that may not otherwise have the opportunity to engage with expertise from RZSS on Scottish conservation.”

The customised double-decker has been transformed from a Stagecoach passenger bus into a fully functional and interactive mobile classroom with capacity to accommodate up to 26 children at once.

The corporate partnership with Clydesdale Bank is the biggest in RZSS’s history and includes significant support. As well as funding the overhaul of the bus, the partnership is helping support the delivery of the programme by the RZSS outreach education team as it travels across Scotland to as many schools as possible. Part of the package also includes a donation to RZSS’s conservation aims for endangered species.

For more information about Clydesdale Bank’s partnership with RZSS and to find out if the bus will be visiting your local primary school, please visit:

<http://www.cbonline.co.uk/wildaboutscotland/>