

TOP PICKS

Best spots to visit

See the best of our wetland wildlife

Use the numbers with the map overleaf

1 Close Encounters

Meet striking duck and swan species in this sensory habitat.



2 Ganderland

Get close to rare and exotic geese and enjoy the array of colours, sounds and behaviours on show.



3 See our otter family feed and play

Meet at the Otter pool for a talk at 11.30am.

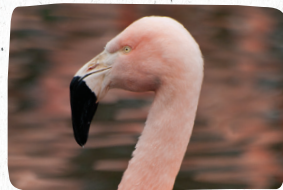
If they are not out on the water, look for them on the bank and logs or inside resting in their holt.



4 We have Chilean flamingos here at Washington

Meet their keeper for a talk at 11.45am.

Spot the grey flamingos; they are young birds.



You can see the birds during good weather; they may be hidden inside on icy or windy days.



There are six species of flamingo in the world, the greater, lesser, Caribbean, Chilean, Andean and James's flamingos.

5 To spot some of our wild woodland birds visit our Hawthorn Wood hide and feeding station

From here you can see a mix of woodland birds including robins, blackbirds, chaffinches and often a great spotted woodpecker or bullfinch.



One class at a time is recommended.

Different woodland birds visit the feeding station all year round.



How many can you spot? What are they feeding on?

Use our ID signs on the walls to identify the more common birds.

6 Visit our duckery where we raise baby waterbirds

This is our specialist breeding nursery where we seasonally incubate and hatch eggs from our collection.



Some of the most endangered waterbirds on the planet are hatched and raised here.

Can you see any out on the grass? What are they doing?



7 Discover the wonder of water at our Waterlab.

8 To burn off extra energy and get physical, visit our Playscape play area.



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MAP AND GUIDE

For schools and learning groups



Washington
Wetland Centre

EXPLORE OUR WETLANDS



Answers to questions pupils love to ask

How many birds do you have?

We have around 300 birds of 45 species in our living collection. And during the winter thousands of wild birds visit Washington.

What do ducks eat?

They eat a variety of different foods. Some eat plants while others eat small animals such as fish, or insects living at the bottom of a pond.

Why is that duck standing on one leg?

It is easier for a bird to stand on one leg than two. During cold weather tucking a leg up helps them to keep warm.

Why are flamingos pink?

Flamingos eat shrimps that contain pink chemicals which turn their feathers pink. They use the colour to display and show off to each other.

Why do these geese and swans hiss?

By hissing, geese and swans are telling you that you've gone a little too close for their liking, or that they are protecting their young.

Do minibeasts bite/sting?

Most minibeasts you will see at Washington are safe to look at up close and won't bite you. Bees and wasps will only sting if they feel unsafe.