

'HANDS -ON LEARNING' WITH READING MUSEUM 2026-27

CONTACT

Telephone: 0118 937 2152 (Learning team)
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THE AIM OF THE SERVICE

The aim of the service is to offer the opportunity for schools:

- To borrow museum collections of the highest quality to support subjects across the curriculum, encouraging children to recognise the importance of real primary sources
- To take part in a range of educational sessions
- To offer support to teachers through training events and online resources

SERVICE SUMMARY

'Hands-On Learning' offers membership which gives access to the following:

- Loan service of museum objects, over 1000 boxes available to schools within Berkshire.
- Free resources for teachers, please see website for details

Schools can also visit the Museum for a variety of educational sessions (see below for prices)

SERVICES PROVIDED THROUGH RETAINED FUNDS

- Book a free introduction to museum services at the museum or online
- Free entry to Reading Museum for general visits (must be pre-booked)
- Museum service updates, emailed to schools regularly. Please sign up to our list to receive these: <https://www.readingmuseum.org.uk/reading-museum-schools-mailing-list>
- Loans Online catalogue (search collections online on our website or ask us to send you a link)

SCHOOL OBLIGATIONS

Please book in advance for all visits and loan boxes

ANNUAL SERVICE CONTRACT AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

Hands-On Learning with Reading Museum Service

(applicable 1 September 2026 – 31 August 2027)

Loan Boxes:

- Based at Reading Museum and Town Hall
- A range of over 1,000 boxes available
- Contact us if you would like help finding a suitable box.
- For bookings please use the online enquiry form
<https://www.readingmuseum.org.uk/forms/school-loan-box-enquiry-form>
- Schools must arrange to collect and return the boxes at agreed dates

SCHOOL OBLIGATIONS

When using loan boxes, schools are required to:

- Schools must collect and return boxes on agreed dates (there will be a £30 minimum charge for boxes returned later than the agreed date.)
- Look after the items, they are a finite collection
- Make one member of staff responsible for orders
- Order boxes using the loan box enquiry form
<https://www.readingmuseum.org.uk/forms/school-loan-box-enquiry-form>
- Order objects early – up to a year in advance is possible
- Have adequate cover under the school's insurance policy (for the purposes of this agreement, each box and its contents is valued at £500. Charges for loss or damage of individual items will be based on replacement or repair costs, there will be a minimum charge of £30 and a maximum charge of £500).

SERVICE PRICES

- **Yearly Membership (Sept - July) Options:**
 - **£345 - Five loans boxes per half term (30 boxes per year)**
 - **£270 - Three loans boxes per half term (18 boxes per year)**
 - **£115 - one box per half term (6 boxes per year)**

AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE (OUTSIDE THE ANNUAL SERVICE CONTRACT) ON A “PAY AS YOU GO” BASIS

- Loan boxes:
- Sessions: supporting your curriculum

Handling real objects is a key element in our sessions. These are based around some of Reading Museum’s unique collections. They underpin the requirements of the National Curriculum. For further information please see our web site <https://www.readingmuseum.org.uk/schools>

PRICES

All services from our ‘Hands-On Learning’ programme are available at individual prices:

- All in museum sessions - **£175** (35 children maximum) (1 hour 45 minutes)
- Virtual sessions - **£85** (35 children maximum)(1 hour session)
- Welcome and wow - introductory talk for schools **£50** (35 children maximum 20 minutes)
- Individual loans boxes per half term at **£50** per box

SCHOOL OBLIGATIONS

When booking sessions schools are required to:

- Book in advance (at least half a term is advisable)
- Not exceed the maximum number of pupils
- Attend the online pre- session meeting for all sessions (our team will send you an invitation)
- Please note that there is a charge for cancelled sessions (your booking letter gives the details)
- **There is a non-refundable booking fee for all bookings which is deducted from your final invoice.**

SERVICE SPECIFIC STANDARDS

The ‘Hands-On Learning’ Team will ensure the following standards:

- Check customer satisfaction – gauged through evaluation
- Telephone response time: within two working days