

### SUMMER 2 2021 NEWSLETTER

*Welcome to the summer 2 edition of our outdoor learning newsletter, the final one for this rather strange academic year.*

*Covid has taken a real toll on everyone, children, adults and teachers. Talking to schools and teachers who are getting their classes outdoors, using their outdoor spaces and local sites so their children benefit from outdoor learning and connecting with nature, they have noticed significant improvements. The children are calmer, working together, building new and unlikely friendships, but their work is also improved as their focus increases.*

Thankfully schools are also now able to go on day and residential visits in the UK. Please make sure you keep up with the DfE guidance and consider the risk management aspects outlined in [Annex C](#). If you need any further advice or guidance, we at Hampshire Outdoors are here to help.

As we move into summer, flowers are displaying their beautiful colours and many spreading their delightful scent. So this newsletter is all about the **Power of Flowers!**

Rather than simply labelling the parts of a plant, why not carry out a **plant dissection** or take apart a flower piece by piece and actually identify the real sepals, stamens, stigmas, etc. The best flower types to dissect include lilies, tulips, daffodils, alstroemarias, and gladioli. Once dissected and laid out they can then be labelled and annotated with their functions. This can be done at both a KS1 level and more detailed for KS2.



[Science and Plants for Schools](#) have lots of resources to support teaching about flower, for example, grouping and classification; parts of a plant and their functions and reproduction and plant life cycles.



Other outdoor activities to do with flowers include **Hapa Zome**, the Japanese art of pounding natural pigment into cloth. Explore symmetry and make butterflies or create bunting. Details are in the Trailblazer activity sheet [Hapa Zome](#).



**Pressing flowers** is a way of preserving the flowers. They can then be used for a variety of arts and craft activities as shown on our [Flower Pressing](#) activity sheet.



**Plantlife** are passionate about helping children to explore the nature on their doorstep. Their school's work is mainly aimed at primary school aged children and includes:

- Providing resources for teachers and education professionals
- Delivering workshops in schools
- Delivering training workshops for teachers and other education professionals.

Check out their website for spotter sheets and lots of meadow related activities. For more information about opportunities for teachers and schools please contact Felicity at [felicity.harris@plantlife.org.uk](mailto:felicity.harris@plantlife.org.uk)

## Wild About Gardens

The Wildlife Trusts and the RHS set up [Wild About Gardens](#) to celebrate wildlife gardening and to encourage people to use their gardens to take action to help support nature. Many of our common garden visitors – including hedgehogs, house sparrows and starlings – are increasingly under threat. But together we can make a difference. This year, we're Bringing Back Beetles!

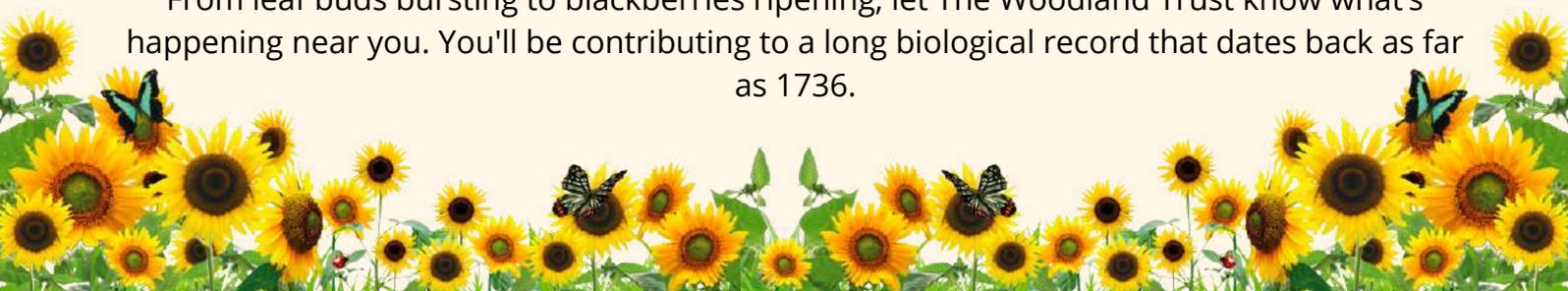
You can download a brilliant Free Guide that includes instructions on how to build a beetle bucket, beetle bank or dead hedge. You can also pledge a beetle home on their UK map.



## Time to Observe and Record - Signs of the Season

Take part in [Nature's Calendar](#) - whilst you are out and about in your garden or local area take some time to observe and record your sightings to help the Woodland Trust track the effects of weather and climate change on wildlife near you. Have you seen your first butterfly or swallow of spring? Is it a good year for wild autumn fruits?

From leaf buds bursting to blackberries ripening, let The Woodland Trust know what's happening near you. You'll be contributing to a long biological record that dates back as far as 1736.



# Competitions

## 2021 Shoebox Garden Competition

One Seed Forward have launched this year's Shoebox Garden competition and they want everyone to take part! Children aged 16 or under are invited to individually create a garden in a shoebox.

Children can be as creative as they like and can build it around a theme - rock garden, bee friendly, herb garden, sensory, whatever they like! It's all about getting growing!

The overall individual winner will receive gardening vouchers worth £50 with £20 of gardening vouchers for the runners-up. The best overall school will receive gardening vouchers of £100.

See the website for full competition details. Closing date is Friday June 18, 2021.

Last year's winners:



## Creative Writing Competition

Inspired by Nature is a creative writing competition from The Natural Curriculum and ERA.

The winning class will have their creative writing published on the Natural Curriculum website and will win £500 for their school to spend on laptops or tablets!

The competition is open to Years 3 to 6. Entries must be submitted by 11.59pm on 11 June 2021.

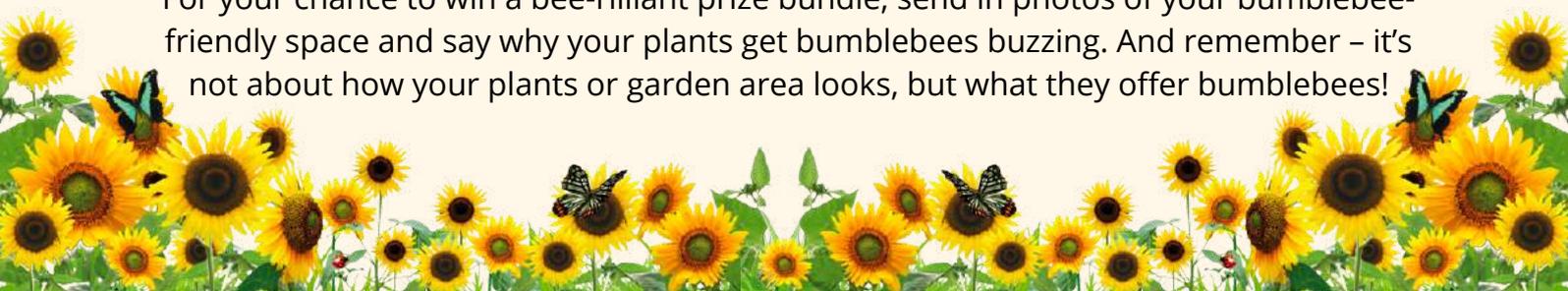
## Pollin-8 Competition: Your Bumblebee-Friendly Space!



Show off the flowers you've planted to help feed bumblebees, with eight exciting competition rounds from April to November, there's something for everyone.

There are lots of different kinds of outdoor space which can offer bumblebees a much-needed meal, from flower pots to school and community greenspaces. Every bee-friendly flower makes a difference to your friendly local pollinators. The Pollin-8 competition, run by the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, is all about celebrating this.

For your chance to win a bee-riliant prize bundle, send in photos of your bumblebee-friendly space and say why your plants get bumblebees buzzing. And remember – it's not about how your plants or garden area looks, but what they offer bumblebees!



# Free Resources ...



Learning Through Landscapes have announced the opening of their **Local School Nature Grants**. The grants provide an assortment of nature equipment up to the value of £500 and a two hour training session. The packages are customisable, enabling Early Years settings, Infant, Primary and Secondary schools to choose from a menu of items which best suit their learners and their setting.



## Great British Wildflower Hunt 2021

Over this spring and summer, Plantlife will bring you four different Hunts with over 70 different flowers to get to know. Register to print out the spotter sheets or download the free Survey123 app.

## OK Sun Safety Code - Melanoma Fund UK

The Outdoor Kids Sun Safety Code is a free educational resource for all those who work outdoors with primary aged children. By becoming Sun Protection Accredited you'll find out why sun protection is vital, and how best to implement this into your outdoor sessions.



## 60 Trees for 60 Schools

To celebrate 60 years of trading, Fairweather's Garden Centre is inviting schools and children's charities across Hampshire to apply for a free tree to plant in their grounds or playgrounds. The first tree was planted in May by Lord Montagu of Beaulieu in the grounds of Beaulieu Primary School with the help of school children.



Schools can choose between a Common oak (*Quercus robur*), Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) or a Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) all of which are native to the UK,. They will be supplied as bare root plants in November and must be collected from Fairweather's Garden Centre, Beaulieu in November. If you have any questions please email [info@fairweathers.co.uk](mailto:info@fairweathers.co.uk)



## Teaching science outdoors: 21 projects, activities and experiments

Hope Education have compiled 21 FREE fun and engaging outdoor science experiments, activity ideas and projects - perfect for primary school learning. Outdoor cooking with a solar oven and engineering a waterwheel with LEGO are just a couple of the outdoor activities available.

If you are lucky enough to have a mud kitchen in your setting, you might like to download the free **Marvellous Mud Kitchen Recipe Cards** from Love Outdoor Learning. These 6 recipe cards use simple to find ingredients that are easily found and promote maths, literacy and more.



# It's All About the Bees!



As we know, bumblebees do an amazing job pollinating our crops and wildflowers. But as our towns and countryside change, there are fewer flowers to feed on, so bumblebees need a helping hand to survive.



**Bee the Change** is all about quick, simple ways you can make your local area more bumblebee-friendly. It doesn't matter if you live in the city or the countryside. If you have a garden, a flower pot – or no outdoor space at all! Get started with their FREE how-to guides and resources.

## BBC Radio 2's Big Bee Challenge

The Big Bee Challenge is Radio 2's brand new competition for children, in partnership with the [Royal Horticultural Society](#).



Children aged 6-12 years old are being encouraged to design a bee-friendly garden and, along the way, learn more about nature and sustainability. The aim is for young people to discover things we can all do to help bees and other pollinators thrive - from planting a bee-friendly flower pot, to leaving a section of lawn unmown, to creating a bee B&B for them to live in. The winning garden will be built by the RHS at an NHS Trust site which is used by children and young people with mental health needs, with the winner revealed on air on Thursday 19 August ahead of their garden unveiling at a special outside broadcast of the Zoe Ball Breakfast Show on Friday 20 August. See [here](#) for full details, including how to enter.



## Bees in Schools

Many schools now keep honey bees on site and have found them to have a huge positive impact on pupils. If you are interested in keeping honey bees on site then [The British Beekeepers Association](#) have a [Bees in Schools](#) page filled with useful information, guidelines and risk assessments.

## 30 Days Wild 1 - 30 June 2021

Every year in June, The Wildlife Trusts run the [30 Days Wild Challenge](#) – a challenge to do an activity linked to nature, every day, for the whole month. This year they are challenging us to do *Random Acts of Wildness*. Sign up for your free schools' pack of goodies to help you plan your wild month, plus lots of ideas to inspire you to stay wild all throughout June (and beyond!). Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust with [Lost Wor\(l\)ds Multilingualism in Schools](#), have put together a [multilingual version of 30 Days Wild](#), suitable both for children growing up multilingual, and for those learning another language at school.



Each day brings an idea for an activity, and encourages multilingualism and language learning. The activities chosen are varied, and most are fairly easy to achieve – hopefully they will inspire schools and families to explore nature using all languages available to children, and giving children a chance to bring home languages into the classroom.



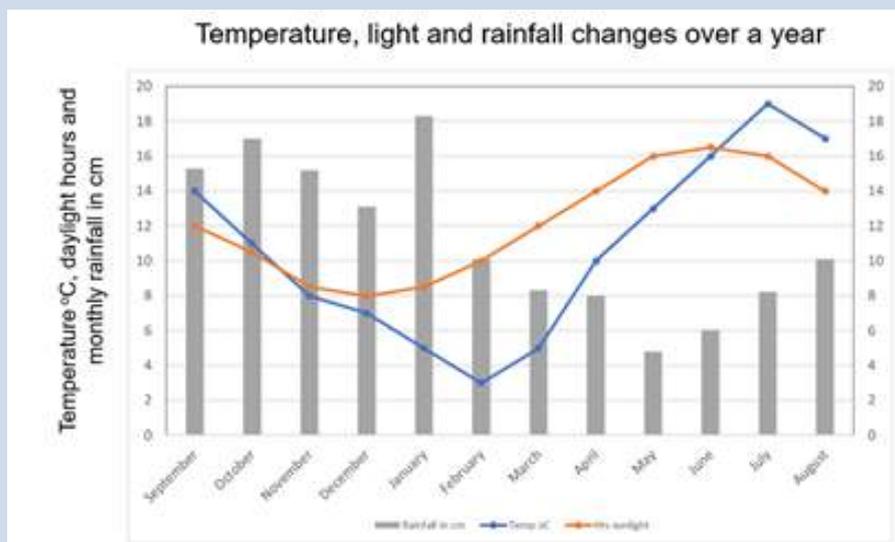
# Investigating the Natural Environment in Primary Science

Science is all about curiosity and problem solving, seeing things that don't quite make sense but spark our interest then seeking to find out more. It always begins with uncertainty and because investigations often raise more questions, it often ends with uncertainty. As teachers, we need to find the uncertainty that excites children to want to explore more. The natural environment and how it responds to changes in weather, climate and what we do as humans, is a rich source of questions that provoke curiosity, encourage exploration and demand deep thinking and debate - the perfect ingredients for good science learning.

Many primary schools in Hampshire engage children in **long term environmental studies**, investigations into questions that require children to study how changes in the seasons affect the organisms and feeding relationships within a habitat. Studies that allow children to observe how nature unfolds in real time.

A common question that forms the basis of a good long term environmental study involves Steve the stick insect. Children receive a letter from Steve explaining he would like to visit the school but does not want to be lonely, could the children find out where in the school he would have most friends and would they be there all year, or would he get lonely in the winter? This problem sets up the investigation that requires children to identify mini beasts, log their numbers and monitor the changes in the seasons.

The gradual monitoring and logging of temperature, light and rainfall changes over the year help children picture changes as they happen and relate them to the changes they observe in the plant and animal populations.



## Investigating the Natural Environment in Primary Science (continued)



Children monitor how the populations of mini beasts change through the year and offer reasons for changes. Such investigations throw up many unexpected and interesting questions. For example children at an infant school in the New Forest observed no snails in the Winter, this encouraged discussions about what animals do when their food sources reduce during the winter as a result of lower light levels and temperature; particularly interesting were debates about whether snails migrate.

The discussion prompted some frantic internet searching and children found that many snails hibernate during the winter in places of safety. The children wanted to see the snails hibernating and sure enough found hundreds under rocks, logs and in cracks in trees and walls.

The same children found that slugs were observed intermittently throughout the winter, comparing their observations with their studies of temperature allowed children to predict that slug don't come out when it is really cold but don't hibernate.

There are many questions that form the basis of good long term environmental studies in primary schools, some more examples are:

- Our woodland is not as pretty as a fairy woodland, what seeds can we plant that will grow into flowers in the woodland?
- How can we encourage more minibeasts into our garden? What materials attract the most types of mini beasts and is it the same all year?
- If I dug a hole and filled it with water, would it become the same as the school pond, containing the same life and does where I place the tub affect this?
- How does managing the school meadow best support bio-diversity? Should we cut the grass area regularly, once a year or never?
- How does the type of soil affect how well plants grow and is it the same through the seasons?
- How does tidying the pond affect the plants and animals that live there? Is it better to leave it completely wild?

If you would like further information about how to use long term environmental studies in your teaching, members of the HIAS team are happy to help, please contact Dave Whittle at [David.whittle@hants.gov.uk](mailto:David.whittle@hants.gov.uk).





# Flowers and Pollinators Abound at Stubbington Study Centre!



Finally, it seems that the warmth of the spring sun is finally having an effect at Stubbington Study Centre, as a result the leaves and flowers are finally bursting into life. All this new life means it's now time for activities based around these essential elements of nature.

**Art sessions** will allow children to explore the endless variety of natural colours, shapes and patterns around them as they create mandalas from leaves and flower petals or colourful prints taken from them. The Japanese art of 'hapazome' or 'plant pounding' can also be used to create lifelike imprints of leaves and flowers, which might in turn lead to a discussion around why plants produce their amazing array of different colours.

Hapa Zome



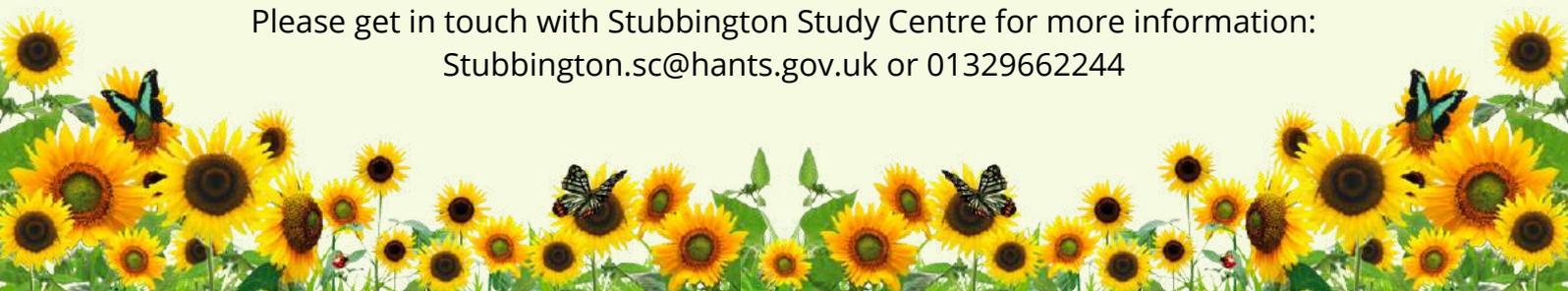
Flower Mandalas

A '**Tree Detectives**' session will allow your children to discover more about the trees around them; finding out how trees work by building a 'tree' as a group and role playing the different parts; learn how to identify different species through their leaves; then have fun as they try to discover the oldest and tallest trees in our conservation area (don't worry we won't cut them down!).

Pollinators are also waking from their winter slumber and are getting to work, flitting, buzzing, and darting between flowers, which makes this time of year great for going on an **invertebrate safari**. Your children will go on a tour of different mini habitats whilst using identification keys to explore the different invertebrates they have found and developing their scientific investigation skills e.g., why do different invertebrates prefer different habitats.

Being set on a 14 acre site, with a large conservation area, the experienced Stubbington staff can help your children explore, be amazed and learn, whilst importantly having a huge amount of fun and developing their teamwork, responsibility and respect. The sessions described above and a lot more are available to our residential groups and day visits groups.

Please get in touch with Stubbington Study Centre for more information:  
[Stubbington.sc@hants.gov.uk](mailto:Stubbington.sc@hants.gov.uk) or 01329662244



# Gilbert White Study Centre



## Gilbert White's House and Gardens has a new offer for schools!

Explorer Days offer KS 1 & 2 pupils an exciting, engaging and fun day of activities based around one of three themes to reflect the three explorers: Gilbert White, Lawrence Oates and Frank Oates whose lives are celebrated in the museum.

- **Nature Explorers** exploring local wildlife, plants and ecosystems.
- **World Explorers** exploring different continents from Africa to the Americas and comparing the creatures and climate there to our own.
- **Antarctic Explorers** exploring the creatures and climate of Antarctica and the challenges faced there by explorers both now and in the past.

For each Explorer Day you can choose four curriculum-linked activities from a list of options, allowing you to plan a day relevant to the needs of your group. As well as the themes described above, Explorer Days offer opportunities to develop 'explorer skills' such as map reading, orienteering and team challenges, as well as options for story-telling and art & craft. Activities are designed so that children learn by doing; they will be kept busy all day long with plenty of time spent outside exploring the beautiful 30-acre site.

For more details please email [fsc@gilbertwhiteshouse.org.uk](mailto:fsc@gilbertwhiteshouse.org.uk)



## Farm in a Box

The Country Trust has a new programme, which has been designed in consultation with teachers for those schools not able to go out on a farm visit. Farm in a Box brings the farm to your school! The Farm in a Box is tailored to each school's needs, and is designed by the charity to be delivered at school by teaching staff, primarily in an outside space.



Every box is based on a real working farm. Boxes are themed according to the farms available for visits in the area and include Fruit, Vegetables, Seeds we Eat, Dairy, Beef and Sheep. Each Farm in a Box is accompanied by a short film, personalised for each school, in which the farmer welcomes the class and takes them on a virtual tour of his/her farm. Wherever possible Farm in a Box will include a live conversation with the farmer on the day too - exciting for both the children and the farmer! To find out more, see the Farm in a Box website or email [info@countrytrust.org.uk](mailto:info@countrytrust.org.uk).



# Physical Education

## National School Sports Week 21-25 June 2021



We are really excited to announce that although the Hampshire School Games 2021 event at Aldershot is unable to happen this year due to Covid-19, we will be launching an alternative virtual celebration of PE, School Sport and Physical Activity.

The **National School Sports Week** will take place between **21 – 25 June** and during the same week we will be holding **Hampshire School Games Week**, a chance for schools to celebrate all aspects of PE, School Sport and Physical Activity. The Hampshire School Games Organisers and **Energise Me** will be providing every school that signs up to delivering all or some of the HSGW activities with a programme of activity, including online/downloadable resources to use in school during Hampshire School Games Week.

Each day will focus on a different theme, schools have the flexibility to do everything across the whole school or pick and choose activities across year groups and themes.

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- Monday – Leadership
- Tuesday – Competition
- Wednesday: Health and Wellbeing
- Thursday – Culture
- Friday – Physical Activity

280 Schools have already signed up. If you haven't done so it's not too late!





## Dates for Your Diary

Here are lots of events and activities coming up that can be used to support getting children active and learning outdoors!

See our Trailblazer [Calendar of Themes and Days for Outdoor Learning](#) for a full list for 2021.



### 1 - 30 June Thirty Days Wild

The Wildlife Trusts' annual nature challenge to do one 'wild' thing a day every day throughout June.

14-18 June Clean Air Scooter Challenge Week. To encourage pupils to ride their scooters to school.



15 June Global Wind Day. A day for discovering wind energy and its power.



17 June Clean Air Day. A great opportunity to raise awareness about air pollution and make the air that we breathe cleaner and healthier. [Clean Air Day activities and resources](#) from HCC.

29 June International Mud Day. Celebrating glorious mud! See [Muddy Faces Activities](#) and [Trailblazer Soil Activities](#).



22-28 June World Insect Week. See [Trailblazer Mini-beasts Activity Sheet](#).

1 July Plastic Free July. An annual campaign to encourage people to stop using single use plastics.



4 July National Meadows Day. Celebrate wildflower meadows near you..



19 July Big Butterfly Count Take part in this UK-wide survey aimed at assessing the health of our environment simply by counting the amount and type of butterflies.



23 July – 8 August Olympics Tokyo Get active with Team GB and ParalympicsGB.

25 July – 9 August National Marine Week A chance to celebrate the wonderful wildlife found in the seas around the UK.