



SPRING 1 2022 NEWSLETTER



Welcome back to a new term. Though it's called the Spring term, with the dark mornings and long nights, Spring does still seem a long way away! Hopefully though, you can spot green shoots beginning to poke through the soil and snowdrops are beginning to flower, hinting that winter will soon be past and warm days might really return! Taking your class outdoors and immersing them in nature is a great way to support their mental wellbeing, whatever the time of year!

In this edition, we are focusing on **Trees**.

Trees can usually be found everywhere – in school grounds, local park, greenspace or woodland, and of course, in both urban and rural settings. Most people can usually find a tree or trees within walking distance of their school, so they are useful to use for outdoor learning. From a child's perspective, trees can be large, tactile and sometimes charismatic, stimulating curiosity and imagination. With bark, leaves, seeds, twigs and branches, to growth, form and structure, any tree provides a wonderful free resource for learning and play outdoors, naturally supporting a cross-curriculum approach to learning.

Why not get your class to adopt a tree and visit it through the seasons. Identify and take photos of the tree (ideally from the same vantage point). This and subsequent photos will create a complete picture of the tree through the seasons. Start each subsequent visit, by having the children look for similarities and differences between this visit and last time.



Plenty of real world maths can come from measuring trees. For younger children, the easiest way to get a measure of a tree's girth is to use the outstretched arms of a number of children, touching one another's fingertips, standing around the tree. Discuss how the girths of different trees vary. You can also experiment with different measures, like hand spans, around the tree.

Older children can measure the exact girth of a tree using a tape measure or a piece of string, which can be marked and measured. The girth of a living tree can also be used to estimate its age. Roughly, every 2.5cm of girth represents about one year's growth. So to estimate the age of a living tree, divide the girth by 2.5. For example a tree with a girth of 40cm will be 16 years old.

These measuring ideas and instructions to measure the height of trees, as well as lots of other ideas to do with trees, can all be found in the **Trailblazer Trees Activity Sheet**.



Plant a Tree for the Jubilee...



The **Queen's Green Canopy** (QGC) is a tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. Everyone across the UK is being invited to plant trees from October 2021, when the tree planting season begins, through to the end of the Jubilee year in 2022. This is a great way to develop your grounds and also get young people involved in how planting trees are carried out. Your school can photograph your Jubilee tree and upload it on to the QGC map and even mark your planting occasion with a commemorative plaque!

There are several organisations providing tree and hedgerow plants **FREE to schools**. Sign up now to receive your trees, so you can Plant a Tree for the Jubilee!

The Conservation Volunteers are once again giving away free trees as part of their I Dig Trees campaign.



The **Woodland Trust** are also giving away hundreds of thousands of trees to schools and communities.

Tree Appeal plants trees to promote biodiversity, create habitats and improve the environment for people. They provide trees to schools and colleges throughout the UK.



Carbon Footprint runs a popular UK Tree Planting Project in schools where commercial partners sponsor trees to be planted in schools around the UK to support biodiversity, enhance the UK's natural landscape and to offset the sponsor's carbon emissions.

The Tree Council are offering schools fruiting tree and hedgerow packs. You can register your interest for the December 2021 – March 2022 planting season. They also provide all the resources and information you need to help your orchard thrive.



The **School Tree Nursery Programme**, run by the Earth Restoration Service, is where you plant tree saplings in your school grounds together with pupils, staff, teachers and parents (any anyone else who wants to get involved). Your school will act as a nursery for these young trees for typically 2 years. When your trees are ready, they can be planted on your school grounds, or relocated into the local community, to be planted out at, for example, an environmentally degraded or vulnerable site such as an inner city park, derelict land, floodplains, local woodlands and so on. The children can help decide where the trees finally will be planted and make them part of the grand event!



Free Tree Activities and Resources



Calling all Budding Tree Scientists, Foresters and Wildlife Rangers!

Inspire your KS1 or KS2 class to become tree explorers for the day with **Forestry England's Tree Explorer Activity Pack**. As well as exploring tree-related careers, this 8-paged pack helps children identify trees by their leaf shape and do their own leaf rubbings.

Forestry England also have a fantastic range of free curriculum-linked resources, for use in indoor or outdoor learning spaces. Discover [tree identification posters](#) for all ages or download a [terrific trees lesson plan](#) ready for your classes' next woodland adventure.

For more information, including [school visits to local forests](#), contact the local learning team at learning.south@forestryengland.uk.



Guess the Tree!

This free activity from [Educate Outside](#) is all about hugging trees! **Guess the Tree** is perfect to encourage students to use adjectives in their descriptive writing as they use their senses to describe a tree as best as they can.



Planting a Vision!

Children's Forest is a movement to inspire and enable children to plant healthy forests. They support people and communities to start Children's Forests in their areas and encourage those with access to land to host these projects.

Please drop them a line if you would be interested in bringing a Children's Forest to your community or if you would like to train as a facilitator of the Children's Forest 4 stage journey. Email: connect@childrensforest.earth

An hour-long [masterclass video](#) from the [Tree Council](#) exploring **the tips and tricks of foraging and growing trees from seed** to start your own woodlands or Forest school sites for free.





Big Schools' Birdwatch 2022

The **Big Schools' Birdwatch** is back for another year, running from **January 5 to February 21, 2022**.



It's a chance for children to participate in a UK-wide citizen science project and generate real-life data. The Birdwatch involves children watching and counting the birds that visit their outdoor space, before sending the results to the RSPB.



Schools can pick any day during the first half of the spring term to take part, with the flexibility to run it as a one-off or as part of a cross-curricular or enrichment activity.

Many schools prepare for the event by taking measures to give nature a home in their school grounds, such as putting up feeders and nest-boxes and making bird cake. **National Nestbox Week** runs from February 14 to February 21 2022.

The activity can also be used as a catalyst for children to improve their outdoor spaces, including as part of the **Wild Challenge Award**. The Wild Challenge is the RSPB's online awards scheme. By completing activities ranging from bug hotels and bird boxes to making a compost heap and planting for wildlife, schools can log their achievements and collect bronze, silver and gold awards.

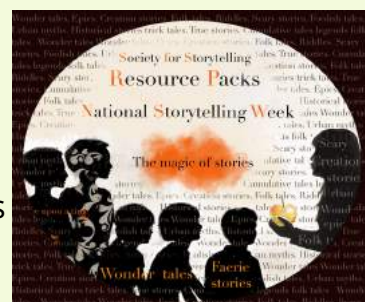
National Storytelling Week, 30 January - 6 February, 2022

National Storytelling Week is a chance to promote and encourage storytelling. Why not go outside and tell stories or even act them out?

The resource packs on the Society for Storytelling website are full of tools to support the teaching of storytelling to children of all Key Stages. It will show what the difference is between reading and storytelling.

It will guide children in how to reduce stories to just a few key words that represent key moments of a story; ie, the bones or structure of the story.

Listening to a story being told outdoors, is a great experience which can have a very different feel from hearing a story indoors. Tell the children stories about the local area including people, historical events or improvised tales based on the local environment. The stories seem more significant and develop more involvement if a story takes place where the children are sitting, or if the story is about things which they can see, hear and touch. You could also invite a local story teller or local historian to visit and tell their tales outdoors.



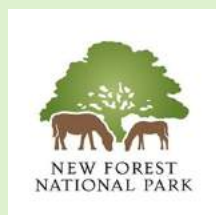
The CIC group, **We Be Kids**, are hosting a **live storytelling event** on Zoom on January 28 at 6pm, to bring you stories about the birds you may see in your garden or school grounds, including the robin, the raven, the wren and many more.

We Be Kids also have a **variety of nature, art and craft activities** linked with the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch.

Free Resources...

What Are National Parks For?

A new upper KS2 scheme of work from National Parks UK.



We are fortunate to have two National Parks in Hampshire: The New Forest National Park and The South Downs National Park. At a time when many school pupils will live to see the next century, it's never been more important for them to understand the value to everyone's lives of our National Parks.



This **new learning resource** from [National Parks UK](#), consisting of eleven enquiries, traces the history of Britain's National Parks and explores their purpose and defining qualities. Seven enquiries focus on how different National Parks are managing their precious environments for the future in a sustainable way. This includes finding ways to accommodate increasing numbers of visitors, overseeing biodiversity enhancement schemes, implementing flood control measures and balancing the needs of economic development with those of environmental conservation.

The enquiries will find a natural home in geography but each also has strong cross-curricular links to English, Maths and other foundation subjects. Each is designed to enable pupils not only to build knowledge but also to master and apply a wide range of geographical skills to ensure that they understand the significance of what they have learned.

Get in touch with the South Downs National Park Education Team (learning@southdowns.gov.uk), or the New Forest National Park Education Team (education@newforestnpa.gov.uk), for advice on planning trips or booking school visits to support your learning.



Free Online Teacher Training

The **South Downs National Park** are holding a series of online **free twilight sessions**, to help you take learning outside and link your curriculum with the local landscape.

Find out about rivers, how trees are used as building material, uncover Roman history, start thinking about school ground improvements, nature connection activities and much more. Visit their [website](#) to see the full programme and catch up on previous sessions.

Free Webinars

The [Institute of Outdoor Learning](#) has launched the **National Outdoor Learning Award** scheme (NOLA). Email institute@outdoor-learning.org for more information.



The aim of this free award is to capture and celebrate the learning that happens on an outdoor learning experience. The IOL is holding **free webinars** to explore how you can use NOLA in your own outdoor learning context.

09/02/2022 4.30-5.30 Book [here](#). 23/03/2022 4.30-5.30 Book [here](#).



Free Resources...

The Urban Worm CIC is a social enterprise that promotes worm farming as the sustainable solution for organic waste management and organic gardening. With funding from The National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund to deliver the project 1,000 Worm Farmers, they have 1,000 packs of 100g of worms to gift to schools, community organisations and anyone who wants to take positive environmental action. Email: anna@theurbanworm.co.uk

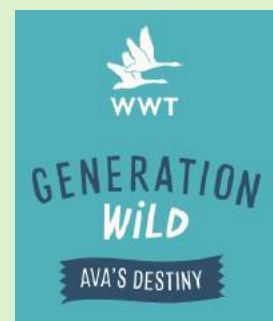


Are you interested in learning more about biodiversity in school grounds?

Sign up to **FREE digital teacher meetings** with Learning through Landscapes on the XPoli:Nation project. Designed by teachers for teachers, to find out more. Session One, 16 February: Learning and teaching about pollinators and bee identification.

FREE Nature Connection Programme for Schools!

The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust ([WWT](http://www.wwt.org.uk)) have recently launched their **Generation Wild** programme which will connect 45,000 children and their families with nature. It includes FREE school visits (including FREE transport), FREE visits for families and a specially designed website to encourage continued nature-connection activity at school, at home and in local greenspaces.



Children and their families will find themselves transported by a magical narrative as they meet Ava, a part-bird, part-human creature in a giant nest. Can they help her to find her family, fulfil her destiny and unlock some of nature's wildest secrets along the way?

The programme is now open to schools in disadvantaged areas, with places offered on a first-come-first-served basis. Eligibility criteria is based on % of pupils eligible for free school meals (FSM). The nearest WWT centres to Hampshire are Arundel, West Sussex (requires 20% FSM to qualify) and London (requires 25% FSM to qualify). Email: generationwild@wwt.org.uk

Free Biodiversity Workshops!

[Learning Through Landscapes](http://www.learningthroughlandscapes.org.uk) are planning to run some free biodiversity and outdoor learning workshops in schools around the South Downs National Park. Let them know if you would like your school to be involved, or if you would like to attend online. Email: rstaples-rolfe@ltl.org.uk



Free Resources...

Connecting Children with Rivers



Is Rivers one of your topics this year?

Then sign up for this free virtual course from the [Wessex River Trust](#) to be held online on Zoom on **Wednesday 12th January 3.30pm – 5pm.**

This session will provide an introduction to rivers, their importance and ways in which you can encourage your class to connect with them. You will be shown numerous activity ideas, demonstrations on safe river dipping and take a closer look at what you may find under the surface! All information provided and demonstrated will give you ideas of how children can value their rivers and make use of their local “blue space”.

Visit [here](#) to book your place. Or for more information please contact info@wessexrt.org.uk

Free Cloud Appreciation Pack

In January the [Cloud Appreciation Society](#) will be launching a FREE Cloud Appreciation Pack for educators to help teach about the sky, in ways that cover science, art and emotional wellbeing. With content both for primary and secondary school ages, the digital resources will include free lesson plans and activities to download. They are also committing to mailing out physical packs, while stocks last, of supporting posters and stickers to any school or home school for free anywhere in the world. Register for your pack [here](#).



Outdoor Learning Support for Schools



The [Institute for Outdoor Learning](#) (IOL) has lots of information and resources on its website, to [support schools](#) in taking the curriculum outside to improve attainment, increase engagement, and develop a wide range of skills including problem solving, communication and resilience.

Explore Urban Nature

The [Explore: Urban Nature](#) programme is for students aged 9-14, to be part of the urban nature movement. The Natural History Museum needs them to track and monitor the nature closest to home, become the local experts, help observe and collect new data, and take action through science to make a real difference.



In the News...

Put the Children By a Tree...

Forest School was selected by the United Nations to showcase at COP26 Climate Summit. As part of the #HotPoets Cop26 project, this wonderful poet Jon Seagrave was selected to write and perform a spoken-word piece communicating the vital role Forest School plays in the well-being of our children and our planet.

Available to watch on YouTube: [Put the Children by a Tree](#),



'For a couple of sun golden hours a week, let's take the children outside and let the forest school them PLEASE'...

A New Book to Help Kids Explore the Treasures and Pleasures of Nature

A Year of Nature Craft and Play by Becky Goddard-Hill and Catherine Hughes, is filled with fun crafts, gardening projects, games, art activities and science experiments, all designed to inspire kids to get creative with nature.



There are 52 activities – one for every week of the year – with easy-to-follow instructions and colourful photos. Each activity uses materials you can easily find in nature, so they're simple to organise, low cost, and eco-friendly. From spring sunflower challenges to summer mandalas, autumn conker craft and winter pine cone decorations, there's a whole host of fun ideas to keep children busy all year. It's a perfect gift for a nature-loving child, and a great source of inspiration for your next nature adventure.

Postponed from 2020, the **International School Grounds Alliance Conference**

will be held online from Monday 7 – Friday 11 February 2022, in partnership with ISGA and Living Classrooms. It will bring together the best in outdoor learning and play in school grounds and beyond. It's ideal for educators, teachers and design professionals eager to expand their understanding of outdoor learning.

You can buy week or day only passes for the event. See the full programme for the week on the [Learning through Landscapes](#) website.



Physical Education

Expanded PE Support in Hampshire!



I am Jodie Bascombe and I am the PE Development Manager for Hampshire. My role involves delivering and organising training to primary and secondary schools as well as offering Health and Safety advice and guidance and answering questions around PE, Physical Activity and School Sport. I was a primary school teacher for 11 years prior to this and for 10 of those years worked for Hampshire as an advanced skills teacher for PE, so have been working with PE subject leaders for a long time.

Over the last couple of years I have worked closely with the Early Years team to help understand how we develop physically from birth – school age which has been fascinating, even more so as I have just returned from maternity leave after having a baby boy in May.

I am really pleased to have Jo Hayes join me as a full time member of staff on the PE team here at Hampshire. Jo takes over from Donna Smith who retired at Christmas, after many years having had an incredible impact on primary PE. It's great to have Jo start on the team, especially with her expertise around cycling which many of you know I am keen to get more into curriculum PE. Please see a short bio for Jo below.



I am the Senior Advisor for PE for Hampshire, which sees me supporting the delivery of training to primary and secondary schools. Throughout my career I spent ten years teaching PE in secondary schools in both Hampshire and Bournemouth.

More recently I specialised in primary education and development in sport, offering advice and support to local schools. For the last 5 years I have managed the Bikeability contract for Hampshire schools, which is where my passion for cycling has been able to develop. The last couple of years has seen me to expand my role further and has given me the opportunity as a qualified instructor trainer to not only train new instructors, but also upskill those already in the industry. I hope to be able to share these skills with more school staff in my new role!

HAMPSHIRE PE CONFERENCE

Participation for all

 **Tuesday 5th April 2022**
Attend in person or virtually

 **St Swithun's School, Winchester**

BOOK NOW *Join us !!*

Afternoon workshops including:
Sensory circuits, Inclusive multi-sports,
Stormbreak, Cycling, Yoga, Outdoor Education,
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Price from £100

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 Hampshire County Council

www.hants.gov.uk/hampshireoutdoors



Keynote from
Paralympian Kate Grey

Book here for the Hampshire PE Conference.

Please do get in touch at jodie.bascombe@hants.gov.uk if you have any PE or PA questions.

Dates for Your Diary



We have updated our **Trailblazer Calendar of Themes and Days for Outdoor Learning** for the academic year 2021/22 so you can see what's coming up and plan accordingly!

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

RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch - 5 January to 22 February 2022

Children could also sign up at home for the Big Garden Birdwatch (29-31 January).



Popcorn Day - 19 January 2022

A day copied from the United States!

Try making your own popcorn in a sieve over a campfire.

National Story Telling Week - 30 January to 6 February 2022

Why not go outside and tell stories or even act them out!



National Nestbox Week - 14 February to 21 February 2022

Run by the British Trust for Ornithology, it aims to encourage people to put up nest boxes to help breeding birds.

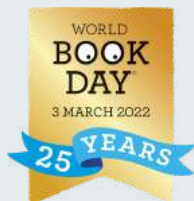
Why not have a go at making your own nestboxes and putting them up around your school grounds?

World Hearing Day - 3 March 2022

A day to raise awareness on how to prevent deafness and hearing loss and promote ear and hearing care across the world.

Encourage your class to sit still outdoors and listen!

Can they create a sound map of what they hear?



World Book Day - 3 March 2022

2022 is the 25th Anniversary of World Book Day. Why not encourage your children to take photos of themselves reading their favourite books outside in an unusual out-of-the-ordinary place?

British Science Week - 11 March to 20 March 2022

This year's theme is 'Growth' and activity packs will be available from January.



Mud Pi Day - 14 March 2022

This day celebrates the mathematic constant, pi (π). It's celebrated on the 14 March because when the date is put into the American mm/dd format (3/14) the digits in the date correlate with the first three digits of pi, 3.14.

Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel 21 March - 1 April 2022

Big Walk and Wheel (was the Big Pedal) is all about inspiring pupils, staff and parents to take active journeys to school.



The Great British School Clean - 25 March - 10 April 2022

Help clean up litter in your school grounds and local area. Why not conduct a school litter survey and map where different types of litter were found?

