**Environment & Nature Family Activities to enjoy together at Home**

Hello to all families home-schooling and staying in!

During these unusual times, many of us have an opportunity to *slow down* and enjoy some precious family time. At this time of year, nature is busy and together we can enjoy it, explore and learn from it in ways that we are often just too busy to do or side-tracked by other commitments and chores. If you have a garden or outdoors area, you can explore within the social-distancing guidelines. But don’t worry if you don’t, there’s still plenty we can do.

Each week we will post activities for you to engage with nature together and remind us of how awesome creation is! Here is week one’s activities. Please do email us pictures of what you get up to, we love to hear from you.

Have fun!

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Week 1

For our 1st week we are thinking about renewal on spring. We know God renews the earth each year in spring, which we give thanks for at Easter. Read Deuteronomy 11:13-15 (The Message Bible) and then explore renewal with the activities.

‘Love God, your God, and serve him with everything you have within you, he’ll take charge of sending the rain at the right time, both autumn and spring rains, so that you’ll be able to harvest your grain, your grapes, your olives. He’ll make sure there’s plenty of grass for your animals. You’ll have plenty to eat’.

**Activity 1: Grow Your Own**

You don’t need a garden for this one. All you need is a pot and soil. A yogurt pot with holes in will suffice and upcycling is brilliant! Use seeds or beans you have at home- cress, runner beans, sunflowers, or use some from your food- melon, squash, pumpkin or even tomato! Talk together about what plants need to grow and keep a diary of progress with a reminder to water it. For older children you could experiment by putting one seed in a dark place and one in a light place and see what happens. Come the summer (or earlier if you use cress) you will be able to enjoy the flowers or the harvest from the plants you grow now.

**Activity 2: Stop and Listen**

Spring is a busy time of renewal in creation- and its noisy! Now is a great time to stop and listen to it, especially as there is much less traffic! Find a quiet spot outside or by an open window and listen. What can you hear? What kind of birds are they? Can you see them? The RSPB has a super tool for identifying what you can see and hear:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wildlife-guides/identify-a-bird/>

This activity may be more of a challenge if you live in an urban area so try exploring The British Library’s collection. Try making some of the animal sounds with your children, it’s guaranteed to raise a giggle!

[www.sounds.bl.uk](http://www.sounds.bl.uk)

**Activity 3: Make a Spring Collage**

If you have a garden, collect (with permission!) bits of spring plants, flowers, catkins etc and enjoy making a collage together. If you have some, sticky-backed plastic pinned sticky side out to a window makes for a stunning display and is good fun. If you don’t have a garden, look in newspapers and magazines or draw your own.