

TERM 1 – WEEK 1

CREATIONTIDE

SEEDS AND SEED DISPERSAL





WISE WORDS

Then God commanded, "Let the earth produce all kinds of plants, those that bear grain and those that bear fruit" – and it was done.
Genesis 1:11

Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but the seeds that you plant.
Robert Louis Stevenson



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Lighting the Candles

Leader: Creator God,
The world is alive with your goodness.
Awaken our senses to all that is around us

Response: And fill us with thankfulness.





Seeds

Each of the seasons on planet Earth has a special beauty of its own, but for many people Autumn is their *favourite* time of year. In the Christian calendar, the period from the beginning of September to mid October is called Creationtide. Churches take time to praise God for his gift of the natural world.

Here are some of the wonders of creation that we can enjoy if we keep our eyes and ears open outdoors.

PPT **Sights of the Season – Autumn**

What is it about the fruitfulness and colour of Autumn that you are most thankful for?

Seed Dispersal

Autumn is the season in which many plants are producing seeds. This is to make sure new plants will grow next year. A seed will stand a better chance of growing well if it is planted away from the shade of the mother plant. The seed therefore needs to be *'dispersed'* (taken to new places).
How do you think this might happen?



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Seed Dispersal

Some seeds will be blown by the wind (dandelion and sycamore);

Some will be eaten by birds and animals and will pass through them in their droppings (berries);

Some will pop out when dried husks split open (poppy);

Some will float away on the water (bulrushes);

And some will be taken and buried by animals (squirrels).

Although many seeds are very tiny there is, locked within each one, the potential to grow into something amazing.



Jesus Teaches about a Mustard Seed

Jesus often used the natural world all around him to help people understand the meaning of his teaching. He once told a parable about a tiny mustard seed that grew into a tree which was big enough for birds to build their nests in the branches. He was teaching his followers that no seed of kindness or generosity that is sown in the world is ever wasted. It will grow into something beautiful; lives will be changed and slowly but surely God's kingdom of love will spread throughout the earth.



NOTICING NATURE

Have you noticed any plants bearing fruits and seeds around where you live? Try to discover how they distribute their seeds.

WILD WONDERS

Choose from the following three ideas to explore how authors, artists and poets have been inspired by the natural world:

POEM

Windsong

by Judith Nicholls

I am the seed
that grew the tree
that gave the wood
to make the page
to fill the book
with poetry.



If you were asked to illustrate this poem for a book, how would you do it?

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ART

Seed Art *by Bella Martin*

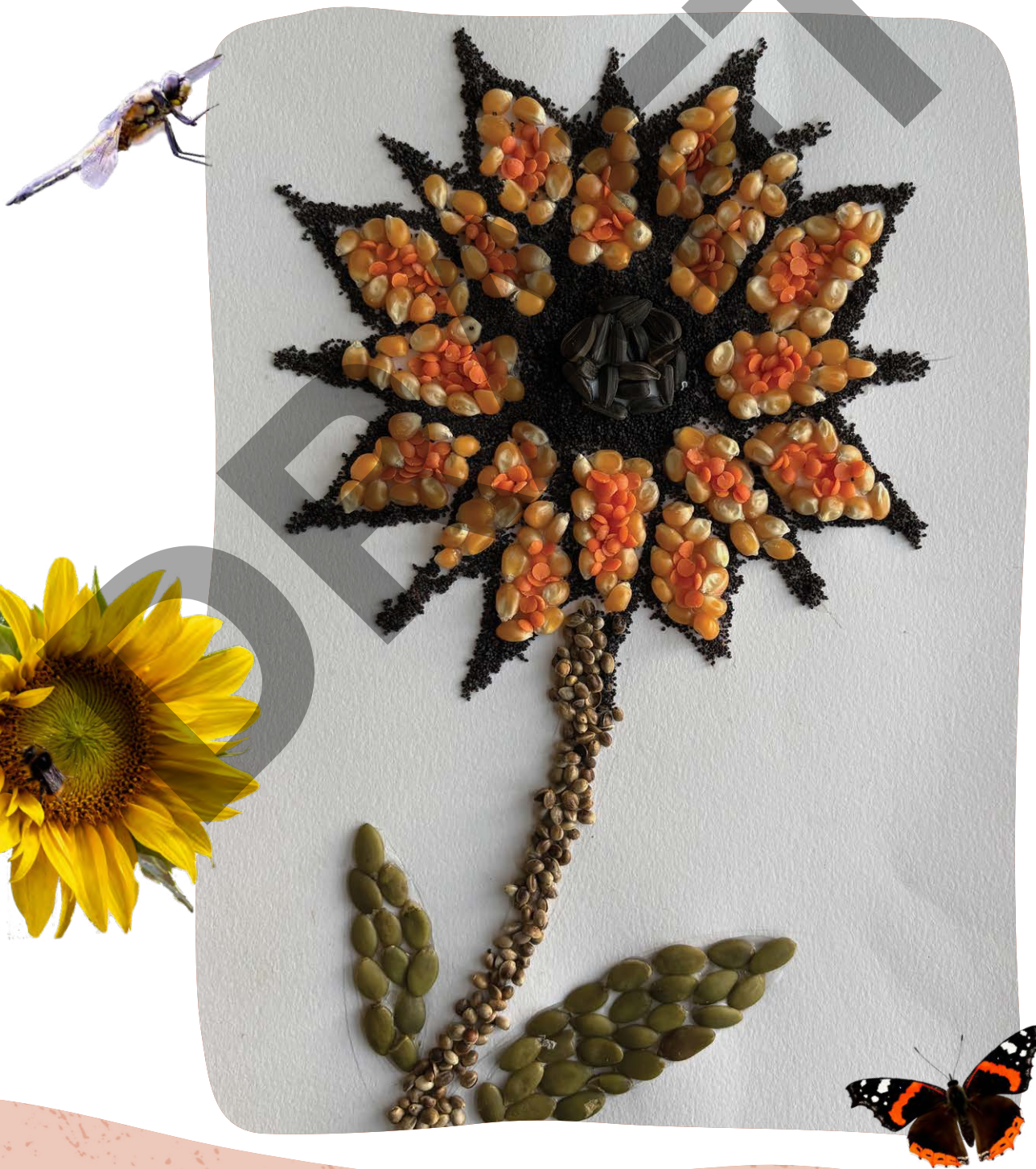


"I am Isabella but everyone calls me Bella.

In school the subjects I like best are Art and Drama.

At weekends, my favourite thing to do is making all sorts of creations using fabrics, clay, paint – anything I can find.

I love being creative because I feel free to experiment and you never really know how things are going to turn out. It might look different to how you expect it to be, but that's a good thing. This is my interpretation of a sunflower using seeds and pulses."



PROOF

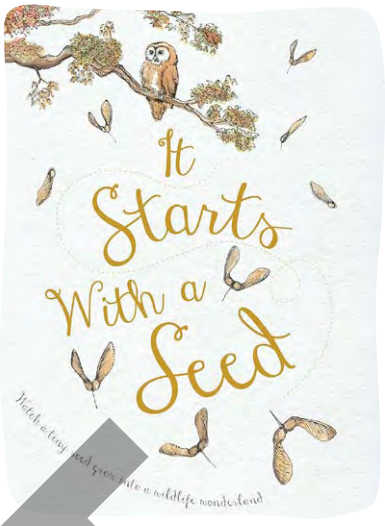
BOOK



Use a visualiser to share this book.

It Starts With A Seed

by Laura Knowles and Jennie Webber
(ISBN 978-0711244078)



It Starts With A Seed is a beautifully illustrated book telling the story, through a magical poem, of the life of a sycamore tree. It begins with a tiny helicopter seed finding a patch of earth in which to grow, and finishes with the tree producing its own seeds and thereby completing the amazing life cycle.

Perhaps you could create some illustrations showing how another plant that you know begins life, becomes fully grown, and finally produces its own seed.



A WILDLIFE PRAYER

A Harvest Blessing

God of Seed and Harvest,
May the wonder of creation
In this season of fruitfulness and plenty
Be a rich blessing to each and all of us.
Amen





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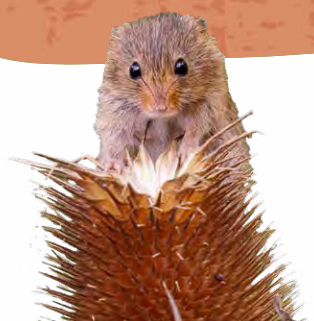
BECOMING AGENTS OF CHANGE

Be a seed collector

If you are lucky enough to have a garden, look carefully at the plants on which the flowers have withered and fallen off. You may be able to see seeds which are looking fat and brown. Shake the seeds into an old envelope and leave them in a warm place to dry out completely. When dry, transfer them to a new, clean envelope. Fold over the top several times, label it and store in a cool, dry place ready to plant next spring.

If you don't have a garden, there are still plenty of seeds around in nature that you could try planting. Here is a picture of what happened when an acorn was planted in a pot!











TERM 4 – WEEK 1

ST DAVID'S DAY

DAFFODILS AND SPRING FLOWERS

WISE WORDS

The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come.
Song of Solomon 2:12

Do the little things.
St David



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Lighting the Candles

Leader: Creator God,
The world is alive with your goodness.
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St David and the Daffodils

This term we will notice the season of winter slipping away and signs of spring appearing all around. But we will need to pay attention because it's easy to miss the many little miracles of new life such as Lent lilies growing in corners of church yards and along grassy verges.

Lent lilies are tiny daffodils which can be seen during the Christian season of Lent - the 40 days leading up to the festival of Easter.



In Wales, daffodils of all sizes appear everywhere at this time of year. They are the country's national emblem along with the leek. St David's Day, which is on March 1st, is a special day in the calendar when the people of Wales celebrate their patron saint. Children sometimes have the day off school and there are celebrations of singing, dancing and poetry up and down the land.

St David lived 1500 years ago when most people couldn't read or write, so stories about his life were handed down from one generation to the next by word of mouth. David travelled around the country on foot, performing acts of kindness wherever he

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went and telling people about Jesus. When he became too old to travel, David set up a monastery in West Wales in a place that became known as St David's. At first, the monastery was very simple, just a collection of round huts. David and his monks grew their own food in the monastery garden and drank only water.

Today, St David's is still very small but it has a beautiful cathedral so it is called a city.

Before he died, St David gave the following advice to his followers:

Be joyful, keep the faith, do the little things you have seen me do.

David knew that small acts of kindness often make a big difference.

Can you remember a time when someone's kindness made a big difference to you?

NOTICING NATURE



Our wise words from the Bible today speak of the flowers proclaiming the arrival of spring on the earth.

The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come.
Song of Solomon 2:12

Some people think of daffodils as little trumpets heralding the start of spring. Have you noticed any daffodils or Lent Lilies growing near you this year?

WILD WONDERS

Choose from the following three ideas to explore how authors, artists and poets have been inspired by the natural world:

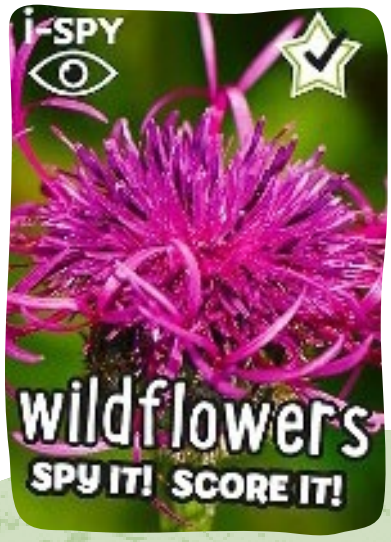
BOOK

Use a visualiser to share this book.

I-Spy Wild Flowers

Collins Michelin i-SPY Guides (ISBN 978-0008431723)

Use wild flower identification books, such as this one in the I-Spy series, to log the flowers growing around your school in the different seasons.



QUIZ **Spring Flowers *T4W1***



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ART

Dancing Daffodils

by Madelen Möllard



This artwork is called Dancing Daffodils.

How do you think the artist has made it look as if the daffodils are dancing?

Perhaps you might like to create your own dancing daffodils picture in paint or collage.



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POEMS

Daffodils

by William Wordsworth



I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the Milky Way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

In the gospel of Luke 2:13, the word 'host' is used to describe a great number of angels. Why do you think William Wordsworth might have been thinking of angels when he saw the hundreds of golden daffodils?

First Primrose

by Leonard Clark



I saw it in the lane
One morning going to school
After a soaking night of rain,
The year's first primrose,
Lying there familiar and cool
In its private place
Where little else grows
Beneath dripping hedgerows,
Stalk still wet, face
Pale as Inca gold,
Spring glistening in every delicate fold.

Seeing and hearing the first signs of spring after a long, cold winter is like a promise that fills us with hope and expectation for what is to come. What have you noticed that lets you know that spring has finally arrived?

A WILDLIFE PRAYER

First Wonders



For the first snowdrop,
the first swallow,
the first catkins on the hazel.

For the first butterfly,
the first honeybee,
the first cuckoo in the woodland.

For the first blossom,
the first primrose,
the first blackbird in the morning.

For all your works of wonder
we offer thanks and praise.
Amen.

BECOMING AGENTS OF CHANGE

Doing the little things

The wild daffodil or Lent Lily (Narcissus pseudonarcissus) is native to the UK. It grows in damp places such as woodlands and hedgerows. Lent Lily bulbs can be bought from specialist suppliers. Do you have little spaces in your school grounds or the churchyard where you could plant Lent Lilies or other native spring flowers to bloom next year?



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