

Season Watch: Summer Watch

To increase understanding of why different seasons occur and the natural changes that take place as the seasons progress.

Years: Foundation and KS1, Year 1		Total Duration: 2 hours	
Curriculum Links Seasonal Changes: ‘observe changes across the four seasons; observe and describe weather associated with the seasons and how day length varies’ Plants: ‘Identify and name a variety of common wild and garden plants, including deciduous and evergreen trees’ Animals: ‘Identify and name a variety of common animals including... birds and mammals’			
Learning Objectives		Learning Outcomes	
• To be able to name the four seasons and explain the reason they occur. • To describe the changes in day length, weather and natural occurrences through the seasons. • Find seasonally occurring natural objects.		All children will be able to name the seasons, the weather and a natural object found in each season Most children will be able to describe seasonal changes in weather, day length and natural occurrences. Some children will be able to explain why the seasons occur and describe their differences.	

Programme Summary

An interactive talk in the Ecology Centre will discuss the reasons for the seasons, differences in weather and the changes that occur in nature with the progression of the seasons.

On reaching the Wildlife Area the class will divide into groups, each group led by one of the teaching staff or adult helpers. Using a spotter sheet they will explore the area while searching for seasonal objects. Returning to the circle we will focus on summer and many insects reaching the adult stage of their lifecycle in the summer. The children will work through the lifecycle of a dragonfly and make one out of clay. We will return to the centre for a plenary.

Pre-visit Preparation

If you have not visited the centre before a pre-visit is essential.

It helps to brief the children before a visit. Talk through the activities that they will be doing and discuss key vocabulary. What are the names of the seasons? What is the weather like? How much light is there? What happens to plants and animals through the seasons?

Pre-visit ideas	Post-visit ideas
Think about the seasons from a human perspective, what do we wear and how do we feel in different seasons? Sorting activity with clothes for different seasons.	Research what happens as the year progresses in the Southern Hemisphere, at the Poles and Equator. Record how the weather, day length and nature changes with the seasons through observation over the year Create models of the same woodland in different seasons

Please refer to our Health & Safety Information for risk assessments and an outline of the school and Ecology Centre responsibilities.