

Looking outside the classroom window during the cold winter months may make you believe it is not worthwhile to visit your local park. All the leaves have fallen off and many animals have gone into hibernation, but do not let that fool you. There is still plenty to investigate and get excited about!

Through this winter programme children will identify winter twigs and buds or finding out the age and height of a tree without cutting it down. The winter months are also the time of year for tree planting, doing scavenger hunts, playing games and lots of opportunities to be artistic.

The winter programme offers learning outcomes from a number of different areas of the curriculum. These are stated on each lesson plan. During this winter programme, there are four trees to investigate:

- Oak
- Ash
- Hawthorn
- Horse Chestnut

### **Suggested Location of Activities**

Parks/ Area with trees

### **You Will Need**

Information on 4 main trees that are covered by the programme;

Buds And Twigs;

Winter Buds;

Park birds ID guide;

For parks with water, other birds can be found in The Waterfowl ID guide.

Also included are simple activities for the pupils to complete whilst enjoying the park;

You will need the lesson plan for each activity along with any materials required.

There are field visits; games and art.

**Time:** These activities have been timed to enable you to plan and select what you have time for on the day. (see next page) Each lesson plan goes into more detail.

The **ParkLife** project helps local people get outdoors and explore nature in Belfast's wonderful parks



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## Introduction 10/20 mins (depending on break)

- Walk to the park.
- Distribute brown collecting bags if they are available and you are doing the scavenger hunt below (useful for collecting items for the Twiggy Names and the winter Gringe or the leaf hunt or leaf design (see below))

## Field Visits: There is a choice of activities

Winter Scavenger Hunt. Activity 20 mins This is a great activity before making the winter Grinch or doing Twiggy names.

How Old Is My Tree? Prep 5 mins 10 mins

How Tall Is My Tree? Prep 5 mins 10 mins

Plant A Tree 15 mins 30 mins

**Art:** There are two Art activities which would both benefit from doing the winter scavenger hunt prior to undertaking the art activities.

Twiggy Names; prep 10 min activity 15 mins

The winter Grinch prep 20 mins prep (for scavenger hunt above) Activity 30 minutes to make the Grinch

**Game:** Choose your choice of games from the list below times are for one game, more detail is provided on the lesson plan for each sheet.

Surviving Winter; prep 10 min activity 20 min;

Bird, who am I? Prep 15 min activity 15 min;

Bird Bingo; prep 5 min activity 15-20

Find your flock. Prep 5 min activity 15 min

## Curriculum links and Learning Outcomes

### Mathematics - Patterns, Relationships and Sequences in Number

Pupils should be enabled to:

- explore and predict patterns and sequences of whole numbers; follow and devise rules for generating sequences;

**Personal and Mutual understanding** - Mutual Understanding in the local and wider community

- playing an active and meaningful part in the life of the community and being concerned about the wider environment.

**Art and Design** Pupils should be enabled to:

- engage with observing, investigating, and responding to first hand experiences, memory and imagination;
- collect, examine and select resource material to use in the development of ideas;
- develop their understanding of the visual elements of colour, tone, line, shape, form, space, texture and pattern to communicate their ideas.

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