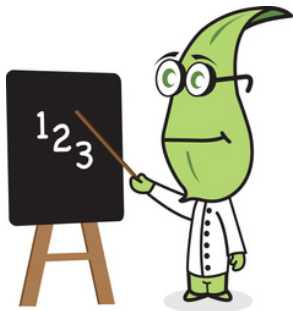# AMGUEDDFA CYMRU

Spring Bulbs for Schools Investigation
Term Planner 2023-24

#BulbBuddies
@Professor_Plant
@Amgueddfa_Learn

2023 sees the Spring Bulbs for Schools Investigation enter its 19th year. We have a mixture of new and returning schools taking part in the project again this year. Top Tip: Look your school up on the website to see if data has been recorded in previous years!

We continue to work in partnership with The Edina Trust who have helped extend the reach of the project. This year we have 176 schools taking part; 79 from Wales, 39 from England, 34 from Scotland and 24 from Northern Ireland.

An animated introduction to the investigation can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-zm_rARbnG4 (2mins)

Resources that support different stages of the project are detailed below and can be found here: https://museum.wales/learn/spring-bulbs-for-schools/

Key Dates

2 Oct
- Resource packs will be delivered to all schools. Check your packs to make sure everything is there and open the bulb bags to ensure they get air. Store the resources somewhere cool and dry.

9 Oct
- Introduce pupils to the project and prepare for planting day. Test your username and password.

20 Oct
- Planting day! Remember to take photos for the competition. Be as inventive and as creative as you can with your submissions (deadline 10 Nov).

1 Nov
- Begin keeping weather records and continue until 1 April (enter 'no record' for days the school is closed). Upload your data weekly to the museum website.

8 Jan
- Encourage pupils to visit their bulbs regularly to observe them grow. Note the flowering dates and heights of the plants and enter these to the museum website.

29 Mar
- Deadline for uploading flower and weather data to the website. Schools with complete data will be entered into a prize draw.

20 May
- Competition winners will be announced and published on the website. Awarded schools will receive certificates, pencils and seeds by the end of the month. Winners and runners up will be contacted about their prizes.

24 Jun
- Professor Plant's end of year report will be shared with all schools and published on the website.

Resource Packs

Your Spring Bulbs for Schools Investigation pack will be delivered to your school by the date shown. Please remove the bulbs from the box and store them in a cool, dry place. The bulbs won't get enough air if they are left in the box. Please check the contents of your pack and let us know if anything is missing.

Your resource pack should contain:
- One daffodil bulb per pupil (Tenby Daffodil)
- One crocus bulb per pupil (Whitewell Purple)
- Mystery bulbs
- One pot per pupil (unless you opted out)
- An additional pot for mystery bulbs
- A thermometer (unless you opted out)
- A rain gauge (unless you opted out)
- A gift voucher to purchase compost (except Northern Ireland schools who have requested alternative vouchers)
- A folder containing information on the project

Prepare for Planting

Before planting, pupils will need to name and adopt their bulbs and make labels for their pots. This is a good time to discuss what a plant needs to grow and to decide where to position the bulbs outside in your school grounds. Please use the following resources:
- A letter from Professor Plant
- Adopting and caring for your bulbs
- Make your own bulb label
- Bulb adoption certificate

Remember to purchase general, peat free compost with your gift voucher before planting day. Use this time to test your username and password and familiarise pupils with using the museum website. Look your school up on the website to see if there are data entries for previous years. The project has been running since 2005, so it's possible that your school has taken part before!

Planting Day

20 Oct

We ask schools to plant their bulbs on the same date because this helps to keep conditions of the investigation the same, which is important to ensuring a fair test. Some schools will be on holiday on planting day. If you can't plant on this date then please plant as close to this date as possible. Please note the date that you planted when entering your first weather comments.

Pupils will need to plant their bulbs and attach the label they have prepared to help them identify their pot. You will need to have general, peat free compost ready for this activity. No trowels or spades are necessary. Discuss safety rules with the class before planting.

Please use the following resources:
- Planting your bulbs
- Make your own mini-origami booklet (about the secret life of a bulb)

Planting Day Competition

10 Nov

Share images of your class planting their bulbs by 10 November to be entered into the Planting Day Competition. You can be as creative with these as you like.

Schools taking part in the Edina Trust extension project can share their images via Twitter by tagging @EdinaTrust or by emailing: samanthamoore@edinatrust.org.uk

Schools in Wales can send their photos to Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales via Twitter by tagging @Professor_Plant or by emailing: scan@museumwales.ac.uk

Weather Records

Pupils will begin collecting information, using equipment and sending data via the website from November. Some schools are on holiday the week of 1 November and will begin collecting data on 6 November. Please enter 'no record' for any dates that the school is closed or that you are unable to collect weather readings. You can add more details about this under 'comments' when entering your data.

It's advised that pupils take turns recording and uploading the weather data. We suggest that you rotor pupils to work in pairs to take weekly weather readings and upload the data to the museum website. Where possible, it's best to take readings at the same time each day. You could discuss how to best approach this task with your class. Pupils are encouraged to take ownership of the project and responsibility for data collection.

Pupils will need the following to complete this task: rain gauge, thermometer, pencils, the weather chart and the class username and password (ready for logging onto the website).

If pupils enter data weekly then schools can compare weather records and study the map to identify local trends. Please send data weekly, on Friday afternoons if you can.

Entering data regularly increases your chances of winning the end of project prizes!

Please use the following resources:
- Keeping Weather Records
- School Weather Chart
- My Daffodil
- My Crocus
- Schools Map
- Schools weather data
- Previous results
- Project Report 2022-23

Flower Records

Encourage pupils to visit their bulbs regularly between January and March. Each pupil is asked to record the date that their plant flowers and it's height on that date to the museum website.

Pupils are to continue keeping weather records as in previous term. Pupils can update Professor Plant on how their plants are doing by entering comments with their weekly weather data.

Pupils should be encouraged to look at the map on the museum website to see where plants are flowering first. They can also look at each schools weather data to see if this offers insight to why plants might have flowered earlier in some areas.

Use the 'Keeping Flower Records' PowerPoint to ensure that pupils know how to tell when their plant has flowered. Ask pupils to log the flowering date and the height of the plant (in mm) on that date to the museum website. After entering the first flowering date a flower will appear above your school on the flower map and the date will appear on the flower chart. Ask each pupil to send in their records as flowers open, so that the website can calculate an average flowering date for your school. This can be used to compare trends.

This is a good time to discuss the potential implications of climate change and to put the importance of the investigation into context. There are additional resources relating to sustainability and climate change on the museum website.

Ask pupils to create botanical drawings of their plants that highlight the structure and function of different parts of the plant. There are examples and resources to help label parts of the plant on the website.

Pupils may take their daffodil home once it has flowered (at the teacher's discretion). Please share the resource 'Bulb Care After Flowering' with pupils at this point.

Super Scientist Awards

All schools that send in full records will receive Super Scientist certificates, pencils and seeds. Please make sure all weather and flowering records are sent to Professor Plant through the website by 29 March.

Don't worry if some plants haven't flowered by the end of term. Please ask pupils to take their plants home with them for the holidays. Those whose plants haven't flowered could be asked to enter the flowering date from home. We require a flowering date for both the daffodil and crocus from each pupil, so that our mapping system can calculate the average flowering dates for your school. If any plants don't produce a flower, then please still enter their height to the website with 00-00-00 as the date and and further details in the comments. Please use the 'Bulb Care After Flowering' resource on the website.

At the end of the project please reuse, upcycle or recycle your plant pots. If you will be applying to take part again next year, then you can request to re-use your pots. The plant pots are made from recycled plastic and are fully recyclable.

Certificates and prizes will be sent to awarded schools the week of 20 May. The winning schools for each country will receive prizes for their class. The winning school for Wales will receive a class trip to an Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales site, with coach hire and facilitated sessions. You can read about last year's winners trip here:
https://museum.wales/blog/2524/Spring-Bulbs-for-Schools-winners-visit-St-Fagans-National-Museum-of-History/

The end or year results report will be shared with participating schools by 24 June and posted on the website. Remember to...

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