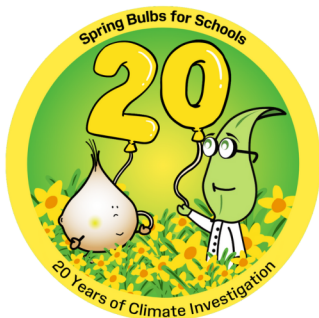


Term Planner 2025-26

Spring Bulbs for Schools Investigation



The Spring Bulbs for Schools Investigation has been running since 2005 and we are celebrating our 20th anniversary this year! We have a number of extra activities and resources planned as part of these celebrations. More information can be found inside!

We are glad to welcome a mixture of new and returning schools to the project again this year. Top Tip: Look up your school 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 178 schools taking part; 82 from Wales, 50 from England, 27 from Scotland and 19 from Northern Ireland.

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

**AMGUEDDFA
CYMRU**

**Edina
Trust**
Bulb Project 

Key Dates



- 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.



- Introduce pupils to the project and prepare for planting day. Discuss the Planting Day and Bulbcast competitions. Test your username and password.



- Planting day! Remember to take photos for the competition. Be as inventive and as creative as you can with your submissions (deadline 7 Nov).



- Begin keeping weather records and continue until 27 March (enter 'no record' for days the school is closed). Upload your data weekly to the museum website.



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



- Deadline for uploading flower and weather data to the website. Schools with complete data will be entered into a prize draw. Remember to enter the Bulbcast competition (deadline 27 March).



- 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.



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

20th Celebration Activities



- Virtual workshop: Draw Like an Artist, Think Like a Scientist! Join us digitally to explore the science behind botanical illustrations.



- Virtual workshop: Take part in a Botanical Paint Together. We'll be following our resident artist to create daffodil masterpieces.



- Competition deadline: Be a Botanist - Name a new Daffodil! We have a new variety of daffodil to celebrate the project, share your name by 31 January!



- Virtual workshop: Climate Clues - From the Past to Our Future. Join us online to learn more about climate change and the difference that we can all make.



- Virtual workshop: Contribute to change - Pledge for the Planet. We'll come together to share what we've learnt and to inspire each other.



- In-person workshops: Explore Nature at St Fagans! From 15 May we will be offering free in-person nature workshops to participating schools.

Scan here to take part in these activities:





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 for the class
- One pot per pupil (unless you opted out)
- An additional pot for mystery bulbs (unless you opted out)
- 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)
- Paper resources and a project calendar



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 website.



Planting Day



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 may 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)



Competitions



Planting Day Photo Competition: Share images of your class planting their bulbs by 7 November to be entered.

Bulbcast Competition: Create short videos that showcase your schools best parts of the project and share by 27 March. Resources to support this can be found on the website.

Schools taking part in the Edina Trust extension project can share their images and videos via X/Twitter by tagging @EdinaTrust or by emailing: samanthamoore@edinatrust.org.uk. Schools in Wales can send their photos and videos to Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales via X/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. 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. The project calendar is designed to support pupils in document their daily weather readings and logging that each week's data has been uploaded to the website. The calendar lists five animal groups and clearly states which group is responsible for each day's readings.

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. 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. Top Tip: Entering data regularly increases your chances of winning the end of project prizes!

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

Please use the following resources:

- Keeping Weather Records
- School Weather Chart
- My Daffodil
- My Crocus
- Schools Map
- Schools weather data
- Previous results
- Project Report 2024-25





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 the 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 into 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. Top Tip: Sign up for the virtual workshops that explore these themes!

Pupils may take their plants home once they have 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 27 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 'no flower' 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 18 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 of year results report will be shared with participating schools by 22 June and posted on the website. Remember to...

[Follow the Bulb Blog](#)

[Follow Professor Plant on Twitter](#)

[Use the resources on the website](#)

