

Indoor jobs (continued)

Can we compost it?

Touching and smelling different types of composts, playing the yes/no game inside around a table. Lesson can then be adapted by getting pupils to design their own 'Can we compost it?' posters.

Plant families

If your planned lesson planting autumn onions / garlic is rained off, firstly get the pupils to touch / smell / identify the members of the onion family taken along to class. These could then be planted into pots and put outside, somewhere sheltered. In February, either plant into containers or plant in the garden. The same can be done with broad beans.

Let pupils think about other plant families and draw other family trees – books from the school library can help them with ideas, as can the gardening resource file.

Where our food comes from/seasonal produce

Take in a box of produce from the supermarket to illustrate crops that are in season and those that are being imported and where from. Get pupils to identify the props and guess where they have come from.

Pupils can then draw posters of crops that are seasonal in this country at the particular time of year or complete a world map showing how far our food travels.

They can also consider whether foods are from plants or animals, using food cards.

Useful websites: www.eattheseasons.co.uk and www.foodafactoflife.co.uk

Tasting of pomegranate was particularly popular just before Christmas!

Keep a food diary

Children write down everything they ate during the previous day, starting from the minute they got up. After working beforehand on food groups (vegetables / carbohydrates / meat and fish / dairy / foods high in fat and sugar etc) they work out which food groups they ate. Complete a pie chart and work out percentages eaten of each food

group. Continue the diary for a week.

See www.foodafactoflife.co.uk for this and other healthy eating activities.

Art projects

Collect leaves, twigs, flower petals and seeds from the garden to make sculptures, collages, drawings, posters, rubbings, displays etc. Use leaf and seed identification guides to find out about the trees growing in your school grounds.

Make lavender bags

If you have saved flowers from early autumn, follow instructions found on resource sheet.

Plant bulbs in containers

In general, autumn and early winter planting for a spring display, spring planting for a summer display.

Plants we use everyday

Consider how plants are essential in many things we use everyday, such as cereal, toothpaste, soap, shoes and clothes. Plants are also used to dye materials, and you could use some simple dyeing techniques at school.

Science topics

Use some of the many science ideas found in the resource file, such as exploring capillary action, examining what plants need to grow, or looking at the water cycle.

Grow indoors

Grow cress on cotton wool on the windowsill, or micro greens (see resource sheets). Many herbs will also grow well on a sunny windowsill, even in winter.

DT projects

Design and build a scarecrow for the year ahead.

Design and build weather recorders, such as rain gauges and weather vanes, to record information on your garden's climate.

See www.metoffice.co.uk for details.