

Assembly 11th May – Flowers

Good morning! I hope this email finds you all happy and healthy.

For those who may be reading the Monday assembly for the first time - the information and activities provided here are there to support during this tricky time. Please do not feel pressured to complete or even share any of these ideas if it is not right for your children and family. But if you enjoy it or are looking for something to focus on, I hope this assembly helps...

Welcome to our sixth Monday virtual assembly. Please remember my questions and discussion points within this assembly are designed for children from age 5 -11 so not all will be ideal for your children.

We start assembly with the greeting good morning, we say it and sign it. In addition to signing good morning we also try to sign the initials of the name of the person leading the assembly.

This week my theme is **Flowers**. I always begin my assembly with some music. This week I have selected the following:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iUnQMvwaXlc>

Please watch with caution as it is on YouTube and may contain adverts at the beginning.

The song I have picked today is very well known. I am sure many of you will recognise it. It may also bring back many memories for your grown-ups. I certainly remember singing it in assembly when I was at school.

Questions to ask linked to the music:

- Can you sing along with the lyrics?
 - Can you name any of the flowers or animals in the video?
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Flowers

We are surrounded by nature but sometimes we forget to stop and take in the world around us. During these strange times we have the opportunity to slow down and appreciate the natural world around us. I know many of you love a bug hunt, looking for creepy crawlies – I do too! But today I would like to focus on the flora rather than the fauna.

- How many different plants can you name?
- I think you know more than you realise. Have you included all the fruit and vegetables that grown in this country and others?

I must admit I am not very green fingered. Plants in my care have to be very resilient. I do however appreciate flowers and plants. I particularly like looking for hidden plants, for example looking in lawns there is a whole variety of plants making up grass lawns and fields so look closely.



Try having a look. You may not have a quadrat like in the picture above but you could try using a hoop or cutting a frame out of card. See what you could discover maybe ribwort plantain, dandelions and daisies.

Below are two poems by Cicely Mary Barker.

The Song of the Dandelion Fairy

Here's the dandelion's rhyme:
See my leaves with tooth-like edges;
Blow my clocks to tell the time;
See me flaunting by the hedges,
In the meadow, in the lane,
Gay and naughty in the garden;
Pull me up, I grow again,
Asking neither leave nor pardon.
Sillies, what are you about
With your spades and hoes of iron?
You can never drive me out
Me, the dauntless Dandelion!

The Song of the Sycamore Fairy

Because my seeds have wings,
you know,
They fly away to earth;
And where they fall, why,
there they grow —
New Sycamores have birth!
Perhaps a score? Oh, hundreds more!
Too many, people say!
And yet to me it's fun to see
My winged seeds fly away.
(But first they must turn ripe and brown,
And lose their flush of red;
And *then* they'll all go twirling down
To earth, to find a bed.)

You can read more of the flower fairy poems on the following website:

<https://flowerfairies.com/>

The illustrations to the flower fairy poems are beautiful. Below is a link to a youtube video of an A to Z of the flower fairy illustrations.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KIfo-ty3eIc>

If you would like to carrying on thinking about today's theme you could try:

- On your daily exercise/ walk see how many different flowers you can see.
- Set yourself the challenge of discovering a plant/flower for each colour of the rainbow.
- Research a plant you are familiar with, is it an indigenous, native plant or does it originate from another country?
- Learn the names of the different parts of a flower.
- Learn one of the poems off by heart and perform it to a family member.

Thank you for taking the time to read my assembly. Please remember this is not to add stress to your day, pick and choose what you take from it.

Take care and stay safe,

Mrs Young