

Nature Detectives



Hello everyone,

I hope you and all your family are well. I thought you might like to try some of the following 'eco friendly' ideas to explore and learn about the natural environment on your doorstep. Get all your family involved. Parents need to give you permission to use phones/tablets, to download apps and go online.

1. Try a mini-beast safari

How many mini-beasts can you find in your garden? Good places to search are under stones, pots and logs, in grass, on tree barks and around plants. Don't touch, harm or lift the mini-beasts. If you are allowed, take a photo and go online to research the insects' names. A useful website for doing this is <https://www.insectidentification.org/identifying.asp> You could draw your mini-beasts and record their names. Make a mini-beast poster.



2. Know your flowers and trees

Download the [PlantSnapp app](#). Use it to identify flowers, plants and trees in your garden or as you do your 2km daily walk.



3. Become a star-gazer

Download the [Skyview app](#), view a starry night sky and have fun learning the names of the star constellations. Also check out Armagh Observatory and Planetarium online.



4. Learn to identify the birds in your garden

Find out how to make simple homemade bird feeders online. Birdwatch Ireland say some of the best foods to put into your bird feeder are peanuts, sunflower seeds, seed mixes, grated cheese and finely chopped fruit. Great websites to help you identify the birds are www.birdwatchireland.ie and www.greennews.ie.



5. Plant seeds

Find out about how to grow your seeds and have a go! Grow some salad leaves in a window box. Sunflowers and nasturtiums are easy to grow too.



6. Visit Dublin Zoo online

Dublin Zoo keepers have set up webcams around the zoo and you can view the animals if you log on to www.dublinozoo.ie . Penguin feeding time is great fun to watch.



7. Do some research on [DKfindout](http://DKfindout.com)

This is a very child friendly website to find out information about animals and many other topics.



I hope you and your family will enjoy doing some of these activities and learn a little bit more about the wonderful nature on your doorstep.

Mr Oliver and Green Team

