

# REACHING OUT

REACHING OUT



## We want to reach out!

As schools return, we look to support each school's efforts to get involved with the rich tapestry of culture and creativity within the borough. Tameside Cultural Services have been looking at how we can best use our years of experience and resources to support schools. We will link in with the Philosophy for Children, as well as the National Curriculum, the schools' recovery curriculum and the Five Ways to Wellbeing: Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning and Give.

Each month, we will share information relating to our education offer as well as giving further ideas and ways to engage with our offer in your classroom. There will be activities from each of the Cultural Services teams and we will take the opportunity to highlight one of our site based workshops as when we are able to, we cannot wait to welcome you back to our sites and great outdoors.

## PLANTS & LIVING THINGS

In this workshop we will be looking at identifying some plants and trees and comparing the differences between things that are living and dead and things that have never been alive. Pupils will be able to use simple scientific equipment, identify, classify and record a variety of creatures they will find in different habitats on land and in water around the countryside site at Park Bridge.

**culture**  
Tameside



# SPRING TREES CATKIN GUIDE

REACHING OUT



## WHAT IS A CATKIN?

Basically a catkin is a pollen head – as on any flower – but minus the petals. It doesn't have petals because it is optimised for wind pollination and petals get in the way of spring winds that can spread the pollen. Catkins come in all shapes and sizes.

Take your class on a nature walk and keep your eyes peeled for different catkins.

See how many different varieties you can find.

It totally doesn't matter if you know the names or not.

The important bit is noticing the differences and wondering about them.

- Do they hang up or down?
- Are they smooth or rough?
- What colour are they?
- Are there different types on the same tree?
- Are they single or in clusters?
- Do they have pollen on them that you can rub off?

To have a chat about how we can help support school, contact:

**Lesley Bardsley**  
(Outdoor Engagement Officer)  
[lesley.bardsley@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:lesley.bardsley@tameside.gov.uk)



**HAZEL**  
*Corylus avellana*  
Feb - March



**GOAT WILLOW (m)**  
*Salix caprea*  
March



**WHITE POPLAR (m)**  
*Populus alba*  
March



**ASPEN (f)**  
*Populus tremula*  
March



**ALDER**  
*Alnus glutinosa*  
March



**BIRCH**  
*Betula pendula & Betula pubescens*  
late March - early April



**HORNBEAM**  
*Carpinus betulus*  
April



**OAK**  
*Quercus robur & Quercus petraea*  
May



**SWEET CHESTNUT**  
*Castanea sativa*  
June



# WHY PLANTS ARE GREEN

REACHING OUT



**Plants** are **green** because of a pigment in them called **chlorophyll**.

Chlorophyll absorbs the light energy from the sun, which is important for **plants** to make food through photosynthesis.

## Chlorophyll leaf prints



- Lay paper or cloth on firm surface ( log slices/ card on a stone wall )
- Leaf hunt—find a selection of different shaped green leaves
- Lay on paper or fabric, perhaps arrange into a pattern
- Cover with a couple of layers of kitchen roll. Carefully hammer over the leaf area
- Gently peel off leaves to reveal your pattern

### Resources:

Hammers,  
Kitchen roll,  
Paper or cloth,  
card or hard surface

To have a chat about how we can help support school, contact:

**Lesley Bardsley**  
(Outdoor Engagement Officer)

[lesley.bardsley@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:lesley.bardsley@tameside.gov.uk)

