

**Environment & Nature Family Activities to enjoy together at Home!**

**Hello** to all families home-schooling and staying in!

During these unusual times, many of us have an opportunity to *slow down* and enjoy some precious family time. At this time of year, nature is busy and together we can enjoy it, explore and learn from it in ways that we are often just too busy to do or side-tracked by other commitments and chores. If you have a garden or outdoors area, you can explore within the social-distancing guidelines. But don’t worry if you don’t, there’s still plenty we can do.

Each week we will post activities for you to engage with nature together and remind us of how awesome creation is! Here are Week 2’s activities. Please do email us pictures of what you get up to, we love to hear from you.

Have Fun!

**The Diocese of Bath & Wells Environment Team**

([sara.jeffery@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:sara.jeffery@bathwells.anglican.org))

**Week 2:** This week we are getting up-close to nature. In Genesis 1 God says: “Earth, generate life! Every sort and kind: cattle and reptiles and wild animals- all kinds. And there it was: wild animals of every kind, cattle of all kinds, every sort of reptile and bug.  God saw that it was good ” (Genesis 1: 24-35 The Message Bible). Now go and have a look yourself- and give thanks for our amazing Creator!

* **Activity 1:** Watch a Webcam.

There is a huge range to choose from. You may get to see eggs in nests, hatching chicks or some weird and wonderful creatures! This is also great for listening to nature as we did in week 1. The Wildlife Trusts have a great range (we LOVE the Puffin-Cam!):

[www.wildlifetrusts.org/webcams](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/webcams)

As you watch, you could make notes together on the animals you see. What are they doing? What do they eat? Check back later in the day to see how it changes. Edinburgh Zoo are live streaming their animals and you can even watch the zookeepers at work!

[www.edinburghzoo.org.uk/webcams/](http://www.edinburghzoo.org.uk/webcams/)

* **Activity 2:** Find Some Facts.

Go hunting in books or online for some fascinating facts about the animals you have been watching. Where does it live? How old can it get? For older children, try to find out how Climate Change is affecting your animal in the wild:

[www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/geography/general-geography/what-is-climate-change](http://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/geography/general-geography/what-is-climate-change)

* **Activity 3**: Go Local.

Observe some wildlife at home. This could be birds or insects- if you have a garden see how many species you can find. If not, try looking under your doormat or even in your window frames! You’ll be amazed at where nature thrives! Spend time discovering who your nature-neighbours are be amazed at how creative our God is.

[www.schoolgardening@rhs.org.uk](http://www.schoolgardening@rhs.org.uk) for a mini-beast identification guide.