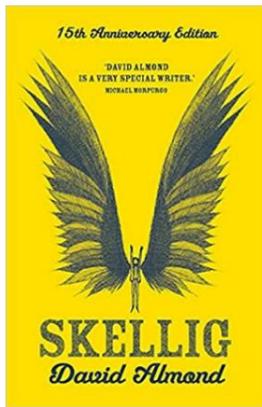


Year 6 Home Learning

To keep a nature journal

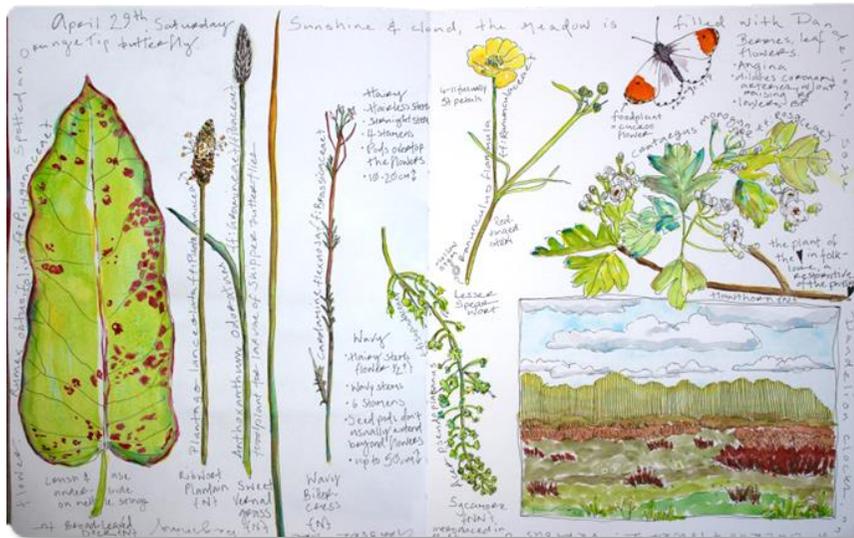


One of our favourite books is 'Skellig' by David Almond. In the book, the character of Mina is home-schooled by her mum. One of the things Mina enjoys doing is spending time observing the wildlife she finds in her garden, recording her observations in a notebook.

Having researched how an animal is adapted to survive in its habitat, Why not take this opportunity to learn more about the wildlife around us, which we may often take for granted.

Task

While you are home learning, why not keep a nature journal – it's a fantastic way to learn more about the natural world.

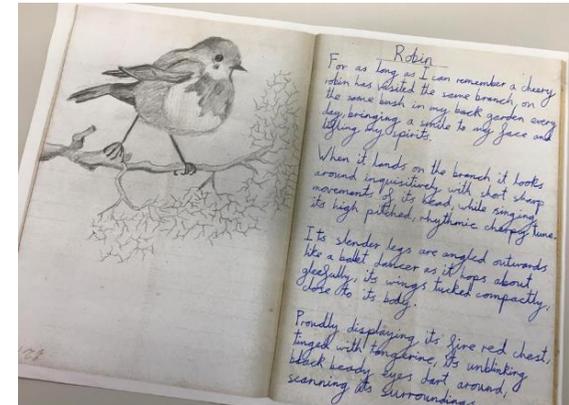


When you start a nature journal, you begin to look at the world with new eyes. Spend time simply observing, then 'zoom in' on one particular thing

in your garden. This could be an animal, a leaf, a tree or a flower. What do you notice about the colours, patterns, behaviours?

If you don't have a garden, take a slow walk next time you go outside for your daily exercise. You could spend a few moments closely looking at an animal or tree; maybe even take a photo to stick in your journal

You could also draw what you see. What do you notice about it? Try to capture everything you've observed by annotating your drawing or photograph. Make field notes about what you have observed. Be sure to include the date, time and make a note about the weather. Can



you also annotate your sketch or photograph with key descriptive language? What did you notice about the colours, patterns, shapes, sounds? Where did you find it? If it's a creature, did you notice anything about its behaviour? What could you write down about how a particular plant looks, smells, feels to the touch?

You could also research more about what you've found. Can you include 5-10 additional facts alongside your illustration and field notes?

Record this information in your nature journal. Both the RSPB and the Woodland Trust have excellent resources that you can use to help you identify and label what you observe:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/for-kids/games-and-activities/activities/>

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/naturedetectives/>

Try to set aside some time each week to focus on adding to your nature journal? Choose something new each time and add more drawings, observations, facts and artwork to it.