

# EXPLORATIONS

## The Newsletter for Schools from Nature Table Explorer



**Spring is here and lots of things are happening . If you look closely you will notice that everything is sprouting, growing and changing colour. the weeping willows have gradually changed from a yellow to a bright green as the leaves start to unfurl.**

- ☀ The birds are really loud in the mornings , the dawn chorus and they are singing at night at dusk as they get ready to roost. Listen and you might hear some birds singing really late that are often confused by the street lights in built up areas.
- ☀ Frogs and toads are busy looking for ponds to lay their eggs (spawn) in and you might see them in the garden. They have been asleep through the cold winter in a state called Brumation.
- ☀ Bees, especially big bumble bees can be seen on a warm day , flying around looking for nectar in the spring flowers. Some of the Bumble Bees are so big is amazing they can fly.
- ☀ Keep an eye out for the Brimstone butterfly is pale yellow and is seen early in the year as it has hibernated through the winter.
- ☀ Birds are nesting , Herons have already had their chicks , other birds are collecting material for their nests . Great Crested grebes are showing off with moves and offerings as courtship to attract a mate.

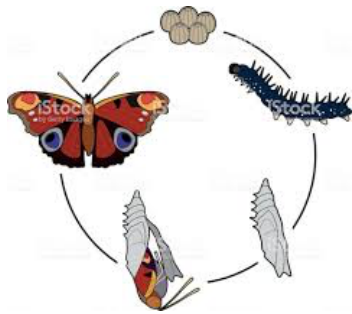
### WHAT ANIMALS CAN YOU FIND BELOW?

E S U O M R O D A E N I T R A M E N I P  
 R A B B I T X V C T B K N C A J T N U M  
 H A R E Z F G H I I P I B N M O I Y T E  
 C R T Y U L E E O K O P K L R E G D A B  
 T E Q S P I D E R D R D E E R E D F H J  
 A W Q R U C Y U F E H S Q U I R R E L I  
 H R W A T O R K O R T R G N D S A A H O  
 T E R G E O F Q X R B A T M E E T A N G  
 U A N E W T W T P D G H E B F D E Q W K  
 N A W S W E R H S B M H E R O N A A N T

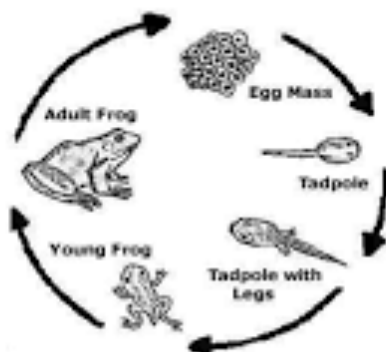
Look out for these birds when you are out and about  
HERON PIGEON

PIED WAGTAIL SWAN CROW SMALL EGRET  
CORMORANT BLUE TIT  
SPARROW BLACKBIRD MOORHEN

Ring round the birds as you find them, look them up in a book or online add new ones you see to the box .



### The Life Cycle of a Frog



### Things to find in Spring

If you are lucky you may see a frog or a toad , keep a look out for the spawn and later tadpoles.

In the first days of warm weather butterflies that have also been asleep through the cold weather are starting to fly and are looking for nectar to feed on.

You might see Peacock butterflies and Commas, and look out for the lemon yellow Brimstone with unusual shaped wings.

### Take some Photos

The leaves of Horse Chestnut (conker ) trees are coming out of their big sticky buds. Put some in a jar of water and watch them uncurl.

