

This week's topic is **Signs of spring**

At Creekside Discovery Centre this week ...

One sign of spring is that lots of animals are reproducing and having offspring or young.

The toad spawn and frog spawn is developing in the Creekside pond. We can see tiny tadpole shapes growing inside the protective jelly.

The species of frog that we have at Creekside Discovery Centre is the Common Frog and the species of toad is the Common Toad.

Female Common Toads produce long strings of spawn or eggs, whilst female Common Frogs lay clusters of spawn or eggs.



Can you identify the Common Frog spawn and the Common Toad spawn in the picture?

Spring into this word search



s	d	x	b	a	w	o	l	l	e	y	o
u	f	b	u	t	t	e	r	f	l	y	f
n	l	y	d	c	e	b	a	r	g	i	f
s	p	a	w	n	p	i	i	o	s	o	s
h	n	d	a	o	t	r	n	g	m	o	p
i	e	g	e	c	u	d	o	r	p	e	r
n	s	r	g	t	f	l	o	w	e	r	i
e	t	a	g	r	o	w	g	r	e	e	n
s	e	r	w	s	e	e	d	l	i	n	g
m	o	s	s	o	l	b	e	w	a	r	m

bee
blossom
bird
bud
butterfly
egg
flower
frog
green
grow
nest
offspring
rain
reproduce
seedling
spawn
sunshine
toad
warm
yellow



I spy signs of spring



As the weather warms up in spring, animals and plants become more active and we can see them more. On your daily exercise take photographs of any signs of spring.

You might see new plants growing as seedlings or growing new buds. You might see flowers and blossom. You might see new colours that were not there in winter.



Keep your eyes open as there will be signs of spring all around you.



Spring photo collage

Create a collage with your signs of spring photos. There are lots of online programmes to help you, I like this one <https://www.photojoiner.net/collage-maker/editor#> or you might already have a programme on your computer or phone that you can use.

Celebrate spring



In Japan they celebrate cherry blossom season in a festival called Hanami, it is one of the most beautiful sights in the world. Hanami means 'viewing flowers'. The Hanami tradition is said to have originated more than a thousand years ago.

Which spring wildlife do you think we could celebrate?

Make someone a card or put one up in your window to celebrate your local spring wildlife.

Blossom handprint tree

You will need: plain paper or card; paint or make your own; a cotton wool bud, the end of a pencil or your finger.

Making your own colours try with beetroot, food colouring, soil, or use coloured pens, pencils or crayons.

1. Put your arm onto the paper and draw around it. It is quite tricky, you might need a second pair of hands to help.
2. Paint or colour it brown.
3. Using pinks and red paint or colours create various shades of pink.
4. With a cotton wool bud, the end of a pencil or your finger print blossom on your tree.



Extension – Experiment with your technique to add texture to the tree bark or depth and shade to the blossom.

Share your work with us on

Email: education@creeksidecentre.org.uk

Twitter: [@Creekside_Trust](https://twitter.com/Creekside_Trust)

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