

Week beginning: 18-5-20

Class and Subject: **English**

SEN Teacher: Ms. Hogan



ST. PATRICK'S GIRLS NATIONAL SCHOOL
GARDINER'S HILL, CORK

Hi girls,

Hope you are all keeping well. This week we will be reading and answering questions around the theme of 'Nature'.

On Monday, you will read about weeds and seeds. Tuesday we will look at how nature and art are connected. On Wednesday and Thursday we are going to look at how to write a persuasive letter. On Friday, you will write your opinion on a topic we read about last week, E-sports.

The suggested work below is to be carried out over a week. Don't worry if you don't get it all done. Uncompleted work could be carried on to the following week. Try your best. Spend 30-45 minutes a day on English. Scroll down through the document to get activities.

**Week
8**

Spelling

Continue with SNIP spellings.

Complete one session per week.

Get a parent or guardian to test you on Friday.

Revise spellings from previous weeks also. You are familiar with how to do this from how we test 'old' spellings on a Friday.

All about...

How Weeds Get Everywhere!

How come weeds get everywhere in our gardens? One minute your lawn can be lovely and green and the next minute it's covered - and I mean covered - in dandelions! Well, it's all to do with the clever way that plants reproduce and spread their seeds far and wide to keep their species alive.

Making the Seeds

So, how do the plants make so many seeds?


Most plants are made up of some female and male plant parts. Bees and other insects are attracted to the flowers because of their lovely smells and colours. While they are at the flower, they help move pollen around to fertilise the plant. Sometimes even the wind can help with moving the pollen around to the right places.

Once the plant is fertilised, the seeds can grow. When this happens in a dandelion, the yellow flower turns into what we call a dandelion 'clock'. If you look closely at a dandelion clock (also called a 'seed head'), it is full of dark coloured seeds with light, feathery, white tops that look like umbrellas.



Fact File

- A weed is only a plant that someone does not want in their garden. They can be very pretty!
- Nettles are used for making tea and medicines, so they are actually very useful.
- The world's largest weed is giant hogweed. It can grow up to 3.65m in height and have leaves that measure 91cm long.
- Some people think that if you hold a buttercup under your chin and the yellow reflects on your skin it means that you like butter.




Spreading the Seeds

So, how do the seeds get everywhere?

This is the clever bit...

As we said before, dandelions make lots and lots of seeds. They all have feathery, white tops that look like umbrellas. This makes the seeds brilliant at floating and flying through the air. So, all they need is the wind to carry them near and far. Before you know it, there are hundreds of seeds all over your lawn, which are all ready to germinate and make yet more dandelions. Other flowers and plants also have other clever ways of spreading their seeds, including putting them inside tasty fruit so that animals eat them. Eventually, the seeds come out of the other end in their poo and start to germinate.



Questions about How Weeds Get Everywhere!

1. Name the world's largest weed.

2. Name something mentioned in this text, other than bees and other insects, that can move pollen around in the flower.

3. What is another name for a dandelion 'clock'?

4. What is a good thing that nettles can be used for?

5. What makes dandelion seeds good at floating in the air?

6. Name another way mentioned in this text, apart from the wind, that seeds can be spread around to germinate in other places.

7. How tall can the largest weed grow?

8. What does 'germinate' mean in the final paragraph?

9. In paragraph one, the author has written the contracted word **it's**. Write the full words without the apostrophe.

10. In the first paragraph, what does the word 'reproduce' mean?

Art and Nature

Humans have created artwork inspired by nature for thousands of years. From the ancient cave paintings created in the stone age, to more modern pieces of art, the natural world has inspired paintings, music and the written word throughout human existence. Let's explore how nature could inspire you to create your own **masterpiece**:

Nature Inspiring Music

Italian **composer** Antonio Vivaldi created a piece of classical music called 'The Four Seasons'. It is split up into different sections and each section tries to sound like the season it is named after.

- 'Spring' tries to sound like bird calls.
- 'Summer' tries to sound like swarms of wasps.



The great wave off Kanagawa by Katsushika Hokusai is licensed under CC BY 2.0

- 'Autumn' tries to sound like the hunters' horns.
- 'Winter' tries to sound like the chattering of teeth.

Why not listen to it for yourself? Can you hear what Vivaldi was inspired by?

Take a walk in your local park or sit in your garden at different times of the day. Close your eyes and listen to the different sounds that could inspire your own music. Think about the instruments you could use to make those sounds.

Can you use your body to make the sounds of morning birdsong?



Nature Inspiring Sculpting

Andy Goldsworthy is an award-winning environmental artist. To create his sculptures, he uses:

- fallen leaves;
- pebbles;
- branches;
- stone.

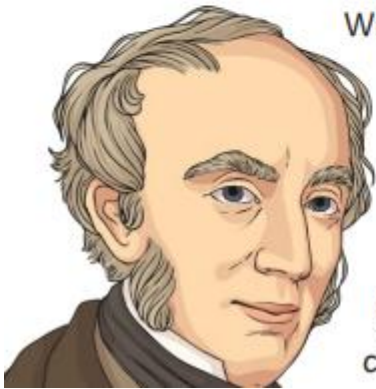
Which natural materials could you use to create your own sculpture? You could:

- collect and arrange different coloured leaves to create a pattern;
- weave twigs and branches together to make a structure;
- stack pebbles and rocks in an interesting way.

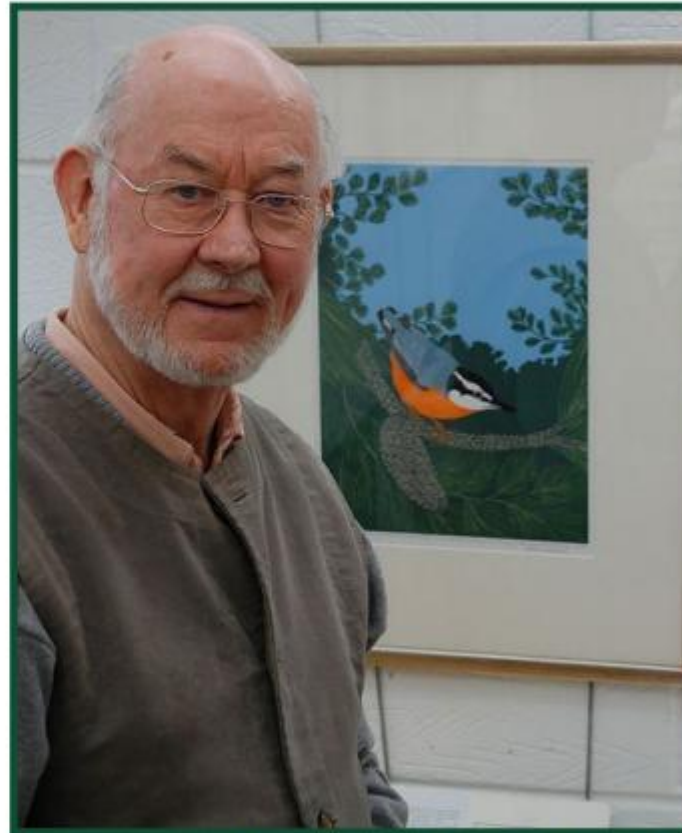
Nature Inspiring Poetry

William Wordsworth was a British poet. Many of Wordsworth's famous poems were inspired by nature. His poems talk about:

- flowers blooming;
- different kinds of plants;
- birds hopping and playing;
- the chirps and calls of different birds.



Which plants or animals could you write poetry about? You may wish to describe the sights and sounds of your garden or the crunching beneath your feet on a chilly day could inspire



Robert Gillmor Photograph by Pigsonthewing is licensed under CC BY 2.0



you to write a poem full of exciting adjectives.

An Extract From

I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud

By William Wordsworth

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

Nature Inspiring Artwork

Robert Gillmor is an artist and **illustrator**. As a child, Robert spent many hours watching his grandfather creating prints in his workshop. Just like his grandfather, Robert began creating artwork inspired by birds.

Which animal would you love to become an expert on? Why not research your chosen creature online or visit a local nature reserve? Spend time watching them; how do they move? What colours, patterns and textures can you see? Think about how you could recreate these using different materials and skills.



Be Inspired!

Inspiration for your own art is all around you.

- Birds in the bright sky could inspire a piece of art using charcoal on a blue fabric.
- Feathers, leaves and twigs you find during a springtime walk could be used to make a natural collage.
- Take a camera to your local park. Can you take a picture of a colourful bird in flight or an interesting minibeast?

The possibilities are endless. Why not explore your local environment and use the colours, sounds and textures of nature to create some artwork of your own?



"Goldfinch in Flight" by Clive Brown

Questions

1. What is the name of the Italian composer who created 'The Four Seasons'? Tick one.

- ☐ Andy Goldsworthy
- ☐ William Wordsworth
- ☐ Antonio Vivaldi
- ☐ Robert Gillmor

2. Number the artists to show the order they appear in the text. The first one has been done for you.

- ☐ William Wordsworth
- ☐ Robert Gillmor
- ☒ 1 Antonio Vivaldi
- ☐ Andy Goldsworthy

3. List **two** materials that Andy Goldsworthy uses to create his sculptures.

- _____
- _____

4. Find and copy the name of one poem written by William Wordsworth.

5. **Andy Goldsworthy is an award-winning environmental artist.**

Rewrite this sentence in your own words.

6. Give **two** ways in which you could use natural materials to create your own sculpture.

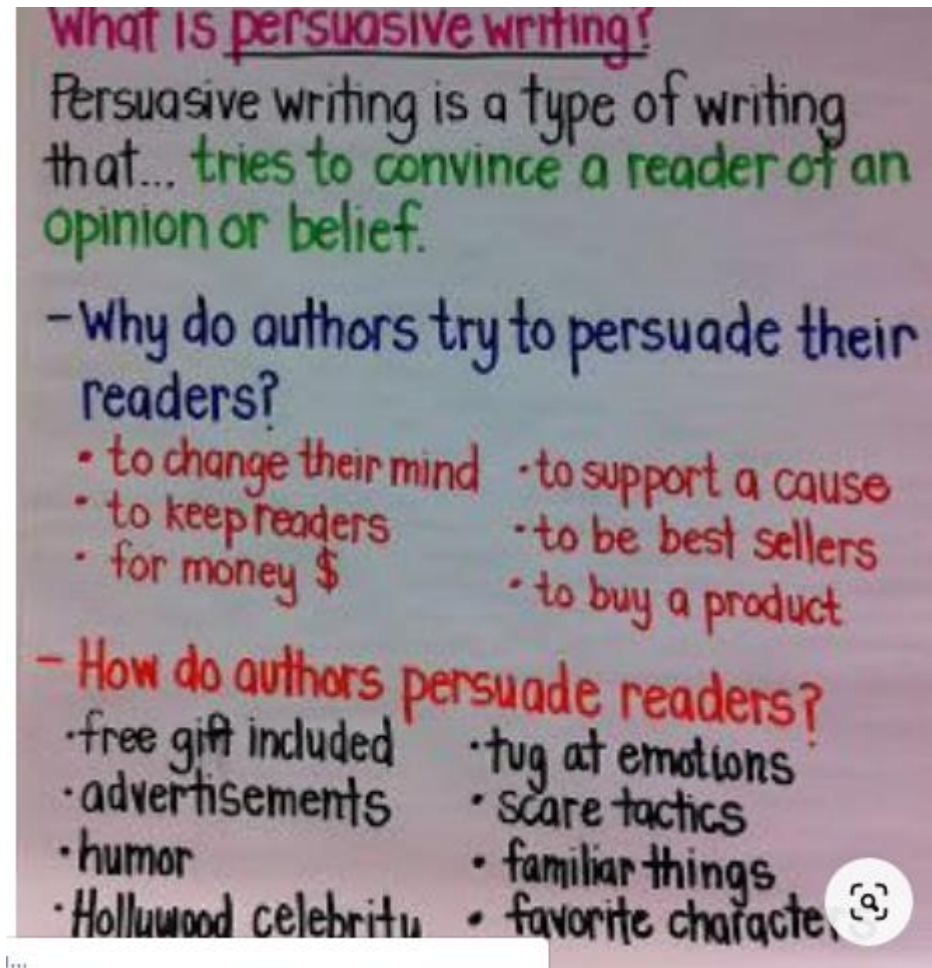
Art and Nature

7. Explain how the art created by Andy Goldsworthy is different to that created by Robert Gillmor.

8. Which type of nature-inspired masterpiece would you most like to create? Give a reason for your answer.

Wednesday

Now we are going to examine how to write a persuasive letter. What does the word persuasive mean? Here is a guide to writing a persuasive letter. Remember the layout of the letter is very important. After we look at the example letter we will write our own.



What is persuasive writing?

Persuasive writing is a type of writing that... **tries to convince a reader of an opinion or belief.**

- Why do authors try to persuade their readers?

- to change their mind
- to support a cause
- to keep readers
- to be best sellers
- for money \$
- to buy a product

- How do authors persuade readers?

- free gift included
- tug at emotions
- advertisements
- scare tactics
- humor
- familiar things
- Hollywood celebrities
- favorite characters

Persuasive Letter Writing

There are some important things to remember when writing a persuasive letter.

You have to lay out your letter properly:

- Write your address.
- Write the address of who you are writing to (the recipient's address).
- Write a greeting (the recipient's name).
- Write the full date.
- Write about the topic and persuade your reader.
- Close your letter.
- Write your full name.

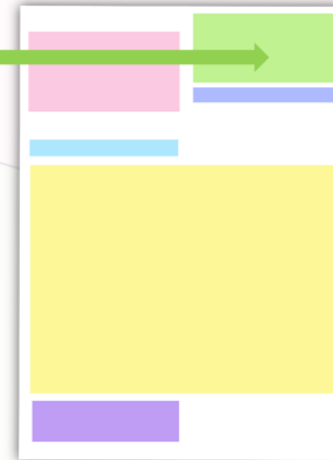


Your Address

This goes on the top right-hand side of the letter:

Your house name/number,
Street,
Town/City,
County

Example:
123 Apple House,
Blueberry Road,
Exeter,
Devon

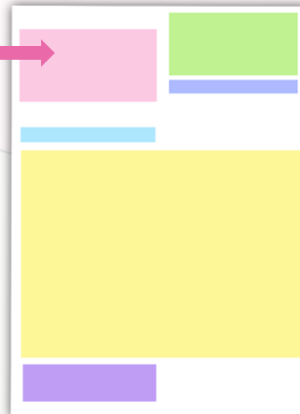


The Recipient's Address

The address of who you are writing to goes on the top left-hand side of the letter:

Their house name/number,
Street,
Town/City,
County,

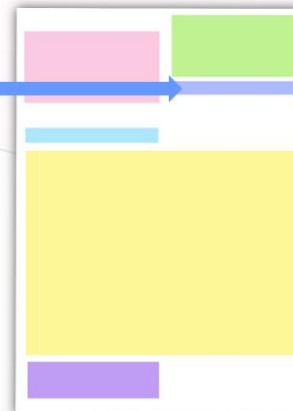
Example:
567 Banana House,
Raspberry Road,
Exeter,
Devon



The Full Date

This goes on the top right hand side of the letter, under your address.

Example:
Tuesday 1st March 2016



Greeting

If you **do know** who the letter is to, begin it with either Mr, Miss, Mrs, Ms and their surname, then a comma:

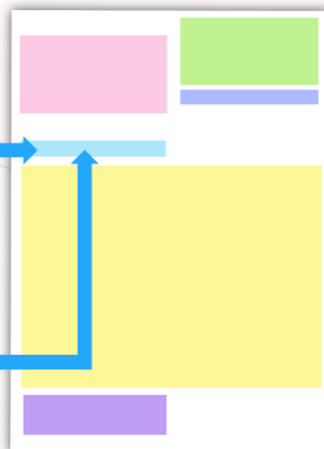
Example:

Dear Miss Smith,

If you **don't know** who to address the letter to, begin it with:

Example:

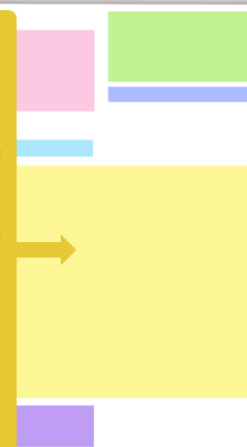
Dear Sir or Madam,



Persuasive Argument

Introduce the topic you are writing about and state the argument- do you agree or disagree? Why?

- Explain in detail, using words such as: Firstly... Secondly... In my opinion... Some believe that... I feel that... I am sure that...
- Describe, using great adjectives.
- Argue why it is so good or bad - be enthusiastic!
- Use powerful verbs.
- Give reasons for and against - use evidence.
- Ask the recipient questions to get them thinking and make them realise they need this.
- End with a summary of what you need.



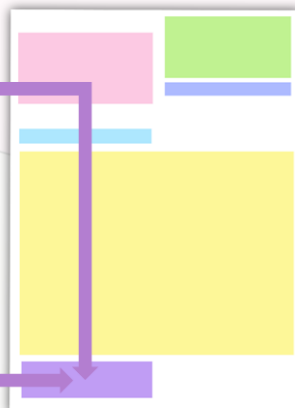
Closing Farewell

If you **do know** who the letter is to, close your letter on the left-hand side with:

Yours sincerely,
(Your Full Name)

If you **don't know** who the letter is to, close your letter on the left-hand side with:

Yours faithfully,
(Your Full Name)



Persuasive Letter Example

125 Banana House,
Blueberry Road,
Exeter,
Devon

123 Apple House,
Blueberry Road,
Exeter,
Devon

Tuesday 1st March 2016

Dear Miss Smith,

I am writing to let you know about a very serious problem: your monkey. Merlin the monkey. As you know, I absolutely love monkeys, they are beautiful, cheeky, energetic and hilarious. However, I have had enough of it stealing all my bananas and it has to go! Merlin must, must, must be given to the zoo!

Firstly, I work every day to earn enough money to buy my favourite snack, but every time I go to eat one of my precious bananas, they've been stolen by Merlin the monkey! Friday evening for example – he stole my best bunch! Is that fair on me?

Secondly, he is actually breaking the law by trespassing into my home uninvited. In my opinion you should only have pets that you can control. I know some believe monkeys are fun pets, but I feel that they should just be enjoyed by safely visiting them in the zoo. I am sure that you would agree. Don't you think it would be kinder to the poor animal?

Merlin is, after all, a wild animal who should be spending his days climbing ropes, swinging on branches and chasing other glorious monkeys around. You know it's true! Please visit the local zoo as soon as you can, I could even come with you! Do the kindest thing... not only for me, but for Merlin.



Yours sincerely,
Mr Chair (Your kind and thoughtful neighbour)

Now it is time to write our own persuasive letter.

Imagine you are writing to the Taoiseach or President of Ireland. You are trying to convince him that protecting nature is the most important issue for young people today. Remember to follow the format of the persuasive letter above. I will include a word bank and checklist at the end of the page. Write it in your refill pad.

Persuasive Letter Writing Word Bank

Greetings	Opening Sentences	Introductions	Details
Dear Mrs May, Dear Mr Brown, Dear Sir or Madam,	I agree that... It is my belief that... Some people believe that... Recent figures reveal...	For this reason... I am sure that... It is certain... In the same way...	For example... In fact... In support of this... Statistically...
Causal Conjunctions and Adverbials	Conclusions and Summaries	Closing Farewell	Vocabulary
accordingly consequently hence thus otherwise	As you can see... Without a doubt... In brief... On the whole... Undoubtedly...	Yours sincerely, Yours faithfully,	arguments unfair support persuade imperative pros/cons



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Persuasive Letter Writing

	Self -Check	Peer -Check
The sender's address is on the right.		
The recipient's address is on the left.		
The letter shows the date on which it was written.		
There is a greeting to the recipient.		
The opening sentence hooks the reader and explains why you are writing.		
There is an introduction.		
The text is organised into paragraphs, which each have their own point.		
Each point has arguments to support it.		
There is a conclusion which summarises the main point of the letter and reiterates the opinion.		
The letter finishes with 'Yours faithfully' if you do not know the name of the recipient or 'Yours sincerely' if you do.		

Let's Debate!

Are E-Sports Real Sports?

The Question

As most organised sports have been stopped for the time, many sportstars are competing in e-sports instead. These are competitions where people play video games against each other. But are e-sports real sports?



Yes!

E-sports require skill and a lot of practice to master. Some of the top e-sport tournaments can get thousands, even millions, of people watching them. With huge numbers of fans, large prizes to win and skilled players, they are definitely sports.



No!

E-sports are a lot of fun to play or watch, but they're not really sports. Sports require a lot of physical activity, such as running or throwing. E-sports are played on computers or consoles instead. They're fun but you can't really call them sports.



What do you think? Write your opinion underneath.