**Some ideas for outdoor (and indoor) adventures in the coming weeks.**

Starting with something indoors…

**14 day Lego challenge:**

How many different outdoor creatures or adventures can you make out of Lego? From Wednesday 25th March can you make a different Lego model every day for 14 days? Take a photo and email Mr Thorpe each day or Tweet me - @boothamoutdoor - to tell me about your creation, don’t forget to include your name on the email (not on Twitter!)

**Woodland walks:**

Go for a walk as a family in a quiet wood, following government advice on social distancing, enjoy the Spring air and get your child to tell you what they know about the woods from our visits.

If you haven’t been yet, get your child to take you to the wood we use for outdoor activities, Moorlands Wood (A Yorkshire Wildlife Trust nature reserve) is located on Moor Lane, YO32 2RE - [Moorlands](https://www.ywt.org.uk/nature-reserves/moorlands-nature-reserve) . It is a quiet wood with plenty of space to keep recommended distances from others.

Or find a wood to explore near you - [Woodland Trust](https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/woods/#=undefined&view=map)

Use an app to help identify trees: [iPhone](https://apps.apple.com/us/app/british-tree-identification/id1112564089) [Android](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.woodlandtrust&hl=en_GB)

Collect fallen leaves, sticks and pine cones to take home.

**In school we learned:**

So far this year our children have been involved in lots of outdoor education, it would be lovely to re-visit what we have done in school. Can they remember what they have learned and the fun they have had?

**EYFS** – We have been playing in the woods, learning to climb, balance and use our imagination. We are led by the children and follow the ideas they have each week. Ask your child to tell you how high they are allowed to climb without needing an adult to watch them (as high as they are tall) or how thick the branches have to be (as thick as their leg) so they don’t snap. Ask them about 1,2,3 where are you? And other rules when we visit the woods.

We have played and made homes for woodland creatures, ask your child to find a cuddly creature to take into the woods and have an adventure with them. Build a home for them or just take them for a walk.

**Year 1** – We explored the woods, climbed trees and made mini dens, what kind of den will you make together?

**Year 2** – We made Wattle and Daub walls and made homes for creatures in the woods. Can you push sticks in to the dirt, remember how to weave thin branches and smear clay (try digging in the garden to find some) on the Wattle.

Ask your child to remember what creature they made a home for in the woods, or find a family favourite woodland creature (in our house it’s a Hedgehog) and make a home for them.

**Year 3** – We weaved designs using branches we found in the woods. Go for a walk and find a good ‘Y’ shaped branch. Head home and find some string, tie a knot at the bottom of one branch where the ‘Y’ starts. Wrap the branch tightly with string and tie off at the top. Weave leaves and other natural things you can find to make a beautiful design.

**Year 4** – We made dragons out of wood and we planted trees. What other creatures (mythical or real) can you make out of a piece of wood? Find a branch and get creating!

Do you have any seeds you can plant? Use a pot, bowl or even an egg box and fill with compost or soil. Add a seed, no seeds? No problem, go in to your outdoor space and hunt for some. Try and plant any seeds you find, gently water them and see what happens!

**Year 5** – We made Ephemeral outdoor art inspired by [Andy Goldsworthy](https://www.theartstory.org/artist/goldsworthy-andy/artworks/), what can you make in your outdoor space? Or can you find another artist that uses the outdoors as a canvas for their art? What inspires you? Send your art to Mr Thorpe’s email address.

**Year 6** – We visited the Lake District on our residential last year. We had a fantastic time learning about the Geology and Geography that makes the Lake District special. Can you design an A4 sheet packed with information and facts about the Lake District? What can you remember?

Can you find the Ghyll that you scrambled up with Mr Thorpe? It is at the bottom end of Borrowdale and is also the name of somewhere we visited.

Minibeasts:

Go on a minibeast hunt in your back garden, or in the woods. Use the attached minibeast sheets to find as many different creatures as you can, see if your child can remember the names of different minibeast.

Make a minibeast home in your garden. Pile rocks, bricks, tiles, sticks and anything else natural in a corner of your garden or outdoor space.

Woodland Creature homes:

Make a tiny house for a woodland creature or fairy/elf. What will your design include? Remember to take photos and email your creations!

Make a mini home in your house for your cuddly creatures, send me photos!

Make a toilet roll bird feeder:

* Put holes in the top of a cardboard tube using a hole punch or carefully with scissors (help needed for younger hands).
* Smear the tube in ‘no added salt/sugar’ peanut butter, almond or other nut butter.
* Roll the tube in birdseed.
* Put string through the holes and hang in a safe place where birds will feel safe eating.

Do a scavenger hunt:

Come up with a list of items your child must find, inside and outside the house.

Cycling:

Now is a great time to teach your child to ride a bike, if your outside space allows. No stabilizers are the way to go, saddle low enough so flat feet touch the ground. Running beside them gives you both a work out, grass gives a safer landing should one of you fall, don’t forget a helmet!

If your child can ride a bike build them a mini obstacle course or get them to practice taking a hand off the bars. Get them to practice looking over their shoulder to check for traffic. Learning to stand with pedals level is also a good skill to have.

Art ideas:

Draw Mr Thorpe a picture, of your outdoor space, your family pet or the view from your window.

Use the collected sticks and pine cones plus things you can find in your outdoor space to make a picture on the ground.

Use the leaves you find, draw around them and colour them in or stick them to paper to make a tree collage.

Grab an old plant pot and make a fairy garden.