

NATURE IN A MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Maria Montessori believed that the outdoor environment was an extension of the indoor classroom as nature provides endless opportunities for learning through doing, observing, reflecting:

'The children aged birth to 6 have a natural affinity and feel most comfortable in an environment with lots of access to the outdoors and nature. Nature feeds their absorbent minds.'

Maria Montessori

As the children get older scientific principles organise everything that they have learned from interacting with the outdoor and indoor environments of the classroom and beyond.

TCHP, therefore, with its low windows and easy access to the outdoors supports the children's natural tendencies during their different planes of development.

We are so lucky that within our Stillorgan oasis children have been happily caring for nature and observing nature for the last 70 years. It is no surprise that so often graduates wonderful memories are exemplified by their adventures in our 'forest'.



This year we've had live caterpillars metamorphosing into butterflies in the classrooms, a visit from some chicks and the company of our resident goldfish in the 9-12 classroom.

We're also thrilled a pair of blue tits came to nest in our new camera nest box – it was delightful to watch the eggs being laid, hatch, the chicks grow and finally fledge!!



3-6 CLASS NATURE WORK:

- ❖ Nature walks
- ❖ Matching cards – plants and animals
- ❖ Leaf shapes
- ❖ Parts of the plant/ flower/ bird/ fish/ horse/ turtle/ frog
- ❖ Caring for plants/animals
- ❖ Nature art – painting/collage/ Impressionists
- ❖ Music from nature – the Silence Game – listening to the sounds of nature
- ❖ Stories/songs about nature
- ❖ Life cycles - observing and nurturing live caterpillars/butterflies
- ❖ Gardening

6-12 CLASS NATURE WORK:

- ❖ Nature walks/ art/ diaries
- ❖ Leaf shapes - etymology
- ❖ Parts of plants/ vertebrates/ Invertebrates
- ❖ Classification of animals/ plants
- ❖ Animal/ plant stories
- ❖ Plant experiments
- ❖ Caring for plants- gardening/planting/watering
- ❖ Green Flag work
- ❖ Searching for and observing insects
- ❖ Arranging 'going outs' {trips} to the Botanical gardens/ the Zoo/ DSPCA, etc
- ❖ Sharing knowledge of Biology with members of the Orchard Day Care Centre

*Enjoy all aspects of the natural world this summer.
Let your children be your guide!*