

Hello Trees Resource Sheet



KS1 Y1 Science Diary Item

Ash Flowers



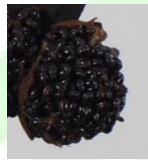
Your class will delight in following the Ash Bud Drama
I want you to give your pupils a gift they will thank you for all their lives:
knowing what to look for on trees.



OBJECTIVE: fulfil KS1 requirement to 'keep records of how plants have changed over time, for example buds opening'. Keep the record by taking photos for your Science Diary.



A fortnight ago we couldn't 'wait to see what comes out of the ash buds'.



Shiny purple bobbles are now coming out of some ash buds –
amazingly early this year.

These are male flowers in the making.

Drama! Drama!



The bobbles will be pushed out on stalks, swell and fill with yellow
pollen.

Pollen will burst out of the tips of the male flowers and be carried on
the wind to the waiting female flowers.



Remember, female buds are on separate ash trees.

Female buds are also black but are slower to get going.

Gradually they emerge and splay out to catch the pollen.

'How likely is it that ash pollen will reach a female ash flower?'



Job done, the male flowers droop, are discarded, and drop to the ground.
Look out for squelchy purple-ish blobs.

Will you take your pupils out to look at ash trees? Or will you keep taking twigs in to show progress?



Remember to take photos of buds, flowers and smiley pupils' faces.

POSSIBLE SCIENCE DIARY ENTRY [with photos of ash buds as they opened – and of smiley pupils]
Here are photos of buds on an ash tree. First, they were closed, then we saw shiny purple bobbles,
then bobbles on stalks, then the bobbles turned yellow. Then the flowers fell off.
Here are photos of buds from a different ash tree. These flowers fanned out more than the others.
We think pollen has fallen on them and they might form seeds. We shall be watching them to see.