

3-6 Newsletter



DOWN TO THE POND

“Croak, croak, croak...” It must be Spring!

Since coming back after the winter holidays, it's safe to say it's been wetter than usual, but thankfully, for us, the water was just what we needed. During this period we have been focusing on still-water habitats, from small ponds to vast swamps and wetlands.

Each week we focused on who and what these areas are so important for. We studied the life cycle and varieties of butterflies and frogs, why a frog is always wet, and we looked at the different birds, plants and insects which depend on these areas.

With the spring breezes blowing away the winter chill, we were able to open our doors and get back outside to tend to our garden. With the abundance of butterflies surrounding us, we added a small butterfly garden, complete with a drinking bowl to our yard, to help them as the temperatures rise further throughout the season. We've also been getting our hands dirty by weeding our flower pots to help our colourful tulips bloom, and also preparing our planter boxes for this year's crops.

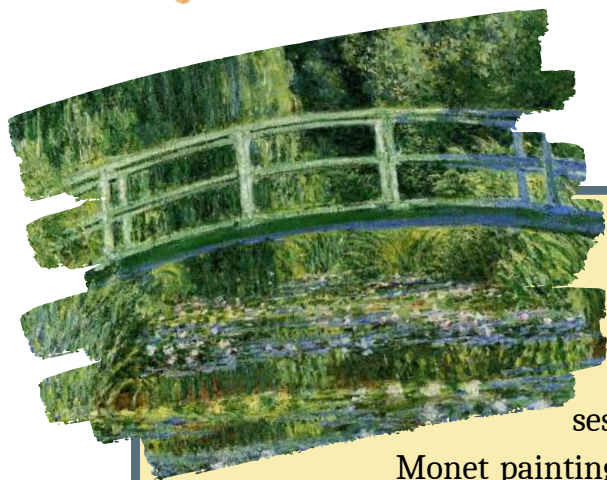
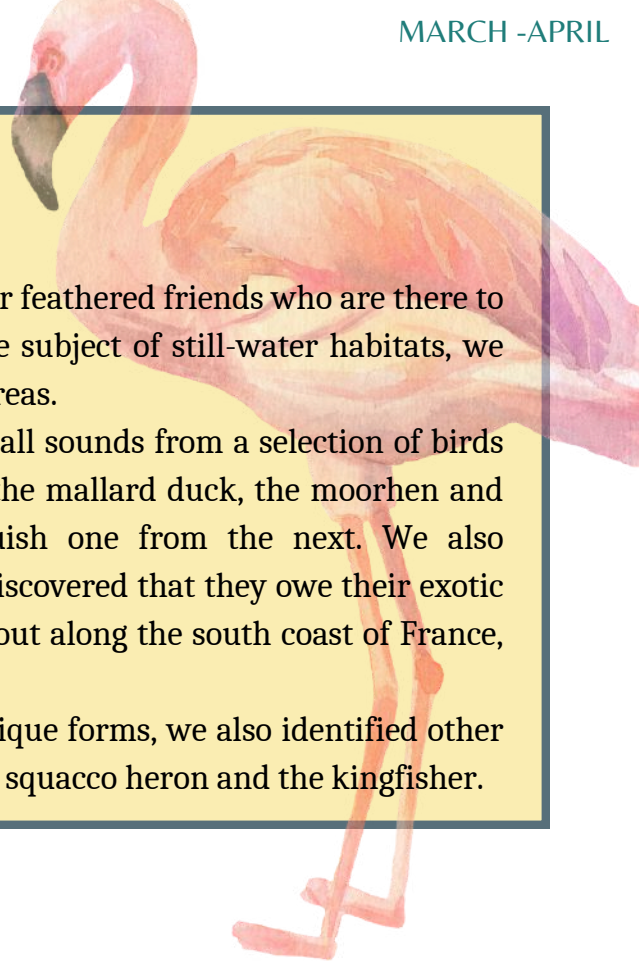


WATER LOVING BIRDS

Water attracts all kinds of life, particularly many of our feathered friends who are there to take a refreshing sip or find a tasty snack. Whilst on the subject of still-water habitats, we took a look into the variety of birds which flock to these areas.

During our circle times, we listened to the different call sounds from a selection of birds found often around ponds and wetlands, like the swan, the mallard duck, the moorhen and the heron, as we tried to imitate them and distinguish one from the next. We also investigated the elegant and eye-catching flamingo and discovered that they owe their exotic pink colours to the shrimp they eat! If we keep our eyes out along the south coast of France, we just might spot some.

Continuing the theme of eye-catching colours and unique forms, we also identified other birds such as the European bee-eater, Eurasian spoonbill, squacco heron and the kingfisher.



FRIDAY GROUPS

During our Friday afternoon group sessions, we took a close look at the famous Monet painting 'Le Bassin Aux Nymphéas' (Water Lily Pond) which inspired us to learn about colour mixing and to discover more complex shades of green, such as "Pine" and "Apple." As well as admiring his work, we learned about his life and his unique style of painting.

Over in the next group, the children were pairing up local species of plants and butterflies by colour, whilst keeping to the plant preference of each type of butterfly. They practised drawing patterns, writing and speaking as they created their own information booklets to take on their nature-spotting walk amongst the wildflowers.



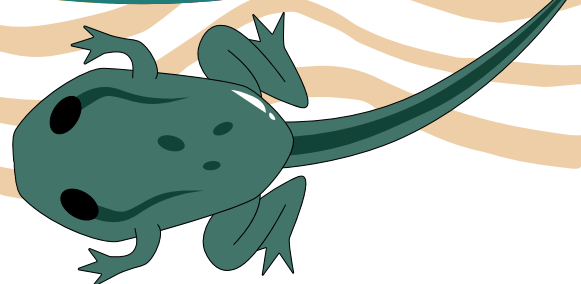
CLAY SESSION

To end this period in style, we had a special guest visit from Luna, a mother of one of the children in our class, who came in to share her job and her passion with us. For a whole morning, the children had the chance to try their hand at pottery sculpting. New to some, clay is a material that requires patience and attention to detail.

This activity was a real concentration challenge for the children since it included several stages: modeling our shapes, then assembling them with potters' glue, a mixture of water and earth with an unusual name: Slip! Everyone shaped their objects and then stuck the pieces together with slip, before finally painting them with a selection of special paints.

In line with our theme, Luna guided us to make small tadpoles, snails and even frog-shaped pots. Of course, it was also possible to give free rein to the imagination and create a completely original piece!

Our creations have been left with Luna, who will allow them to dry before giving them a little heat in the oven so that the clay hardens completely. We can't wait to get together after the holidays to discover our finished ceramics!





PICNIC IN PARC EXFLORA

Making the most of the warmer weather, we decided to head on down to Parc Exflora for one of our Friday afternoon picnics during this period. Geared up with our walking shoes and backpacks, we set off on our small adventure, checking for all the signs of spring we could spot around us. We noticed flower buds, new leaves, birds singing, insects buzzing... and tadpoles!



SINGING



This early Spring period we have been joining in with the birds and filling the air with music. Together we have been practising lyrics, gestures and sign language to songs inspired by our pond life theme:

Five little speckled frogs



Vole, vole, vole papillon



La semaine des canards



From all of us in the 3-6 team, we wish you all a lovely Spring holiday!

