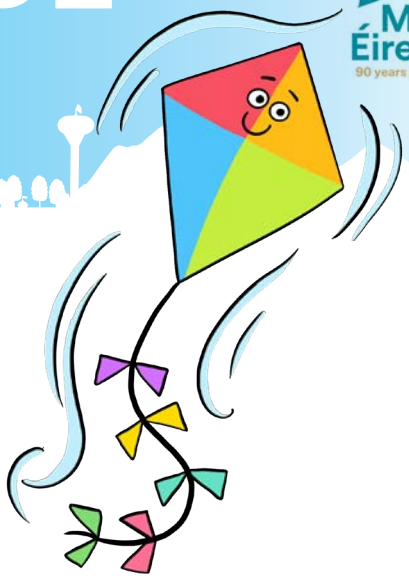
Wonderful Weather
TEACHER'S GUIDE

Supporting Teachers to Deliver the Met Éireann & Picker Pals Wonderful Weather Programme



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Wonderful Weather, a special collaboration between Picker Pals and Met Éireann celebrating 90 years of helping Ireland understand and prepare for the weather.

These resources have been designed to help lower primary school children develop weather awareness, build climate literacy and understand how weather affects their daily lives, keeping them safe while increasing their knowledge of the world around them.

MATERIALS

Learning Outcomes

- What kinds of weather are there?
- Where does the weather come from?
- How do we measure the weather?
- Weather forecasts
- Climate and climate change
- How to be prepared and stay safe?

Levels

The materials are suitable for lower primary school children and roughly appropriate for use at the following levels. The same content is presented at each level so the worksheets can be mix-and-matched for classes of mixed ability and SEN classes accordingly.

- Level 1 (Junior – Senior Infants)
- Level 2 (1st–2nd Class)
- Level 3 (3rd–4th Class)

PROGRAMME MATERIALS

Interactive Lessons

A downloadable lesson at each level to be shown on an interactive whiteboard. Designed to be flexible and offer teachers the chance to spend as much time on each part of the lesson as they like but as a guideline the lessons might take between 30 minutes and an hour to deliver.

Worksheets

15 worksheets accompany each level with a variety of fun and creative educational activities. These worksheets broadly cover the topics of the lessons and can be downloaded and printed for students to complete in class time or as homework.

Video

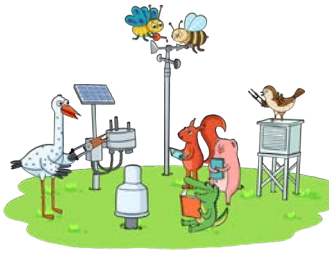
A 5-minute video that introduces the topics and learning in the lessons and worksheets. This video was filmed with children from the Picker Pals TV Club and the Met Éireann team at their HQ in Glasnevin, Dublin.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Observe the weather together. **What is the weather like today?**
- How does the weather affect **what we wear**?
- What activities do you enjoy doing in different kinds of weather?
- Have you ever experienced **extreme weather**? What happened?
- How does the weather affect activities such as going to the playground, playing sports, going on a litter-picking adventure or travelling with your family?
- When are your birthdays? **What season are they in?** What is the weather usually like at that time of year?
- What do you think people working at **Met Éireann** do? Would you like to work there? Why?
- Why is it important to use **sun cream and protect ourselves from UV rays?**
- How do we prepare for different kinds of weather, such as rain, strong winds, very hot weather or cold weather?
- How can we stay safe in different weather conditions? Do you live near a river, the coast or large trees? Could weather make any of these places dangerous?
- What is **climate change**? From what you now know, how might it affect your local area?
- What are the different **weather warnings**? What do the colours mean?
- Have your plans ever been changed because of the weather? What happened?

FUN INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES

- **Weather Actions:** Agree an action for each type of weather. For example: **Windy =** sway like a tree; **Rainy =** wiggle fingers downwards; Sunny = make a big sunshine shape; **Stormy =** clap loudly. Call out different weather conditions and see how quickly everyone can respond.
- **Weather Songs:** Learn some weather-related songs and sing them together.
- **Extreme Weather Art:** In groups, use recycled materials to create a scene showing a type of extreme weather that could occur in your area.
- **Weather TV:** Set up a weather studio corner. Children take turns presenting a weather forecast.
- **Weather Drama:** In groups, create a one-minute skit about a weather-related situation — getting caught in a downpour, preparing for a storm, a very hot day, a cancelled football match or getting ready for a litter-picking adventure.
- **Weather in Stories:** Look through books in your classroom. What kinds of weather appear in the illustrations? Is weather mentioned in the story? Does the weather affect what happens?

WEATHER INVESTIGATIONS & EXPERIMENTS

- **Weekly Weather Watch:** Create a classroom weather chart and record the weather at the same time each day for a week. Compare the results and look for patterns.
- **Forecast Challenge:** Check the week's forecast at Met Éireann. Record the predictions and compare them with what actually happens. How accurate was the forecast?
- **Become Weather Scientists:** How many weather instruments can students remember? What does each one measure? Find pictures of the instruments and match them to their jobs.
- **Make a Rain Gauge:** Create a simple rain gauge from a recycled plastic bottle. Leave it outside and measure how much rain falls over several days.
- **Which Way is the Wind Blowing?** Make a simple wind vane using recycled materials and use it to investigate changes in wind direction.
- **Measure the Wind:** Make a simple wind spinner or anemometer and compare how strongly it moves on different days or in different parts of the school grounds.
- **Cloud Detectives:** Go outside and observe the clouds. What shapes, colours and sizes can you see? Which way are they moving? Photograph or draw them and compare observations over several days.
- **Sun and Shade Experiment:** Put identical ice cubes in a sunny spot and a shaded spot. Which melts first? What does this tell us about the Sun's energy?
- **Shadow Investigation:** Mark or measure the shadow of the same object at different times during the school day. What changes? Why?
- **Temperature Hunt:** Compare temperatures in different places — indoors, outdoors, sunshine and shade. Which are the warmest and coolest places? Can students explain why?
- **Explore Met.ie:** Investigate the maps, forecasts and weather warnings on the Met Éireann website. Can students find their own area? What information can they discover?
- **Design a Weather Station:** Challenge groups to design their own mini weather station. Which weather measurements would they want to take and which instruments would they need?