

Plymouth's
NATURE
Dictionary

NORTH YARD
COMMUNITY TRUST 



As you wander through these pages, you will find a celebration of old Devonian nature words and of Plymouth's natural spaces. You will also find, through the creation of new words, a reflection of our modern relationship with nature, and a hope to nurture a love of the outdoors in future generations.

Bex & Emmie
the EarthJump Team

“A basic language-literacy of Nature is falling from us. And what is being lost along with this literacy is something perhaps even more valuable: a kind of language-magic, the power that certain words possess to enchant our imaginative relations with Nature and landscape.”

(Robert MacFarlane "A Counter-Desecration Phrasebook" in Towards Re-Enchantment: Place and Its Meanings, Ed. Di Robson and Gareth Evans, 2010).



Words are a crucial part of our every day lives. They give us the opportunity to communicate what our senses are experiencing, and share our thoughts, awe, and adventures with those around us.

We talk about things which are important to us using language and words which are related to that topic. At EarthJump, we think that nature is important, and we think that we should use nature words to share its wonder and mystery.

Did you know recently 50 words connected with nature and the countryside were deleted from the Oxford English Children's Dictionary? Gone are words like 'chestnut', 'clover', 'blackberry', 'acorn', and 'buttercup'!

With funding from the North Yard Community Trust and Plymouth City Council and the support of The Marine Biological Association we have created this nature dictionary of new words which we hope will be used in the future to talk about our incredible natural world. The words are the result of the imaginative young minds of primary school pupils from Plaistow Hill Infants, Mayflower Community Academy, Marine Academy, College Road, St Paul's Roman Catholic and Victoria Road.

It has been written by the future generation for future generations to come!

We hope you enjoy it as much as we enjoy feeling 'mudderflies' and hearing 'oceanpopcorn'...

Glooped

or... stuck in mud!

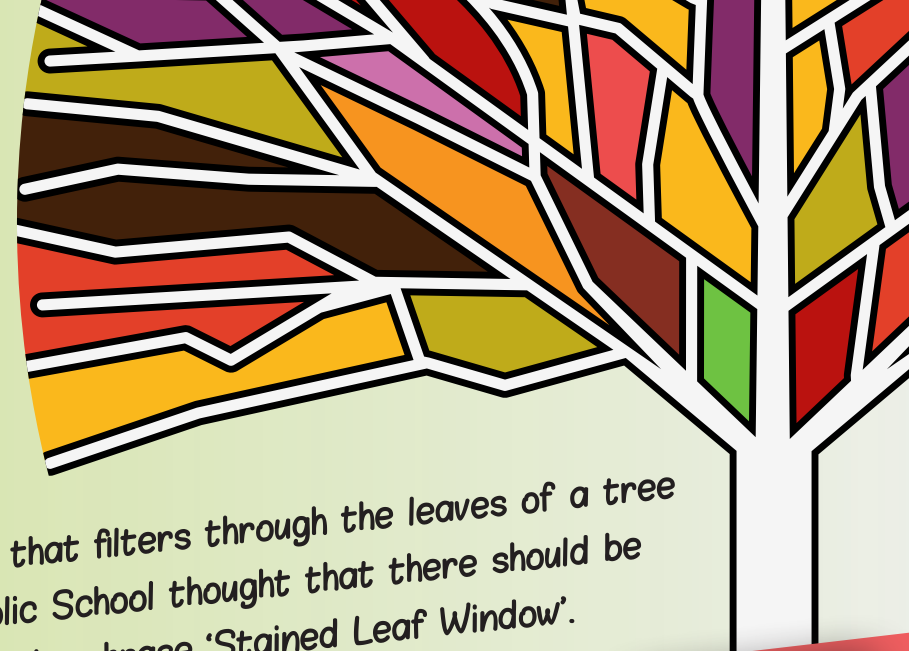


Many moons ago in Devon, if someone was stuck in a bog, they were referred to as 'stugged'. Inspired by this, Victoria Road Primary School created the new nature word 'Glooped', referring to when you get stuck in mud!



Stained Leaf WINDOW

In Japan, the word for the sunlight that filters through the leaves of a tree is 'komorebi'. St Paul's Roman Catholic School thought that there should be a Devonian equivalent, and so made the phrase 'Stained Leaf Window'.



Pudjacked

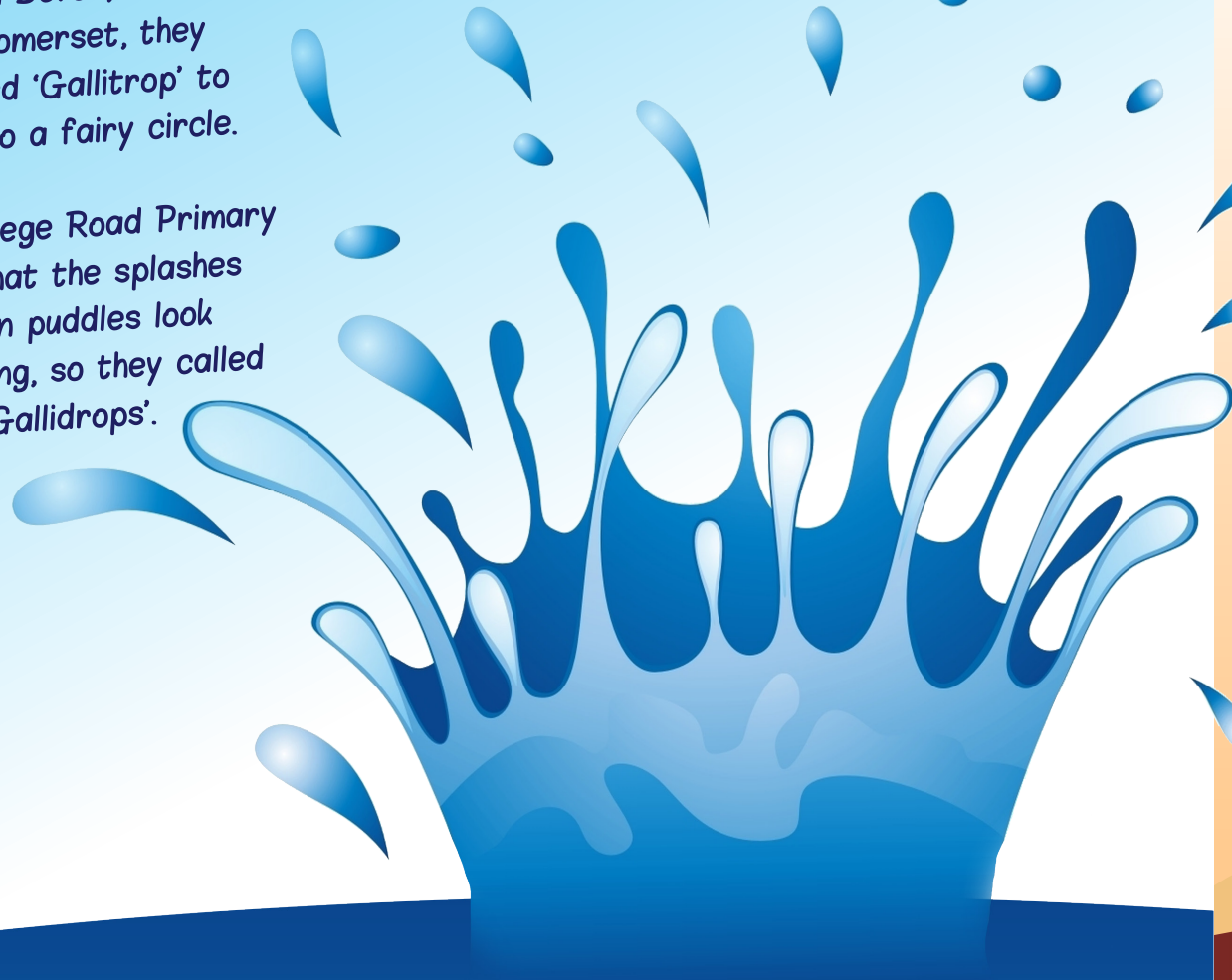
Hundreds of years ago on Exmoor, they used to call a dense mist a 'thick wet'. The pupils of College Road Primary School thought about this, and came up with the word 'Pudjacked'. Being pudjacked is what happens when you go out in misty rain which looks like it won't get you wet and it actually makes you **really soggy!**



Gallidrops

A long time ago, in Devon, Gloucester and Somerset, they would use the word 'Gallitrop' to make reference to a fairy circle.

The pupils of College Road Primary School thought that the splashes raindrops make in puddles look like fairies dancing, so they called these splashes 'Gallidrops'.



Mudderrflies

St Paul's Roman Catholic Primary School were discussing the old phrase from Exmoor 'zam zody', which they used to call something which was soft and damp.

They then thought about jumping in 'zam zody' puddles and what it felt like to jump in these puddles; they called this sensation 'mudderflies'.

or... the butterflies feeling you get in your tummy when you jump in mud!



Springling

In Exmoor, they used to call a bendy, new Spring branch a 'flippety'. St Paul's Roman Catholic Primary School thought that the new nature word for this type of branch could be a 'Springling'.

scram
scram

One thing we have many of in Plymouth is seagulls, and Plaistow Hill Infants School decided that the nature word we could use to describe the noise of the seagull call could be 'Scram Scram'.



Oceanpopcorn

A long time ago around Exmoor, they used to call small pebbles 'dappy stones'. College Road Primary School thought about the sound these pebbles make when the sea is tumbling them about on their favourite Plymouth beaches, and they named this sound 'Oceanpopcorn'!



Copseyling

Around Devon and Exmoor, small bits of woodland used to be referred to as 'copsies'. Marine Academy Plymouth decided to update this nature word to a 'Copseyling'!



Mizly

In Cornwall and Devon, they used to call low, drizzly cloud 'dimpsey'. Marine Academy Plymouth decided that this combination of mist and drizzle was 'mizly'.



Tree Beard

Mayflower Community Academy looked at the wood shavings used to start a fire and decided that it looked like trees had hair, so termed these shavings 'Tree Beard'.



Less than 10% of children play in wild places compared with 40% of adults when they were young. Plymouth is lucky to be the home of so many beautiful outdoor spaces, so why not go outside and explore all of our wonderful meadows, woods, parks, creeks, and beaches!

Find your local spaces here:

www.plymouth.gov.uk/greenspaces

and join our Facebook page to find out about more free outdoor events:



www.facebook.com/earthjumpcic



www.facebook.com/natureplymouth