

## CREATIVE IDEAS

### MUSIC

Make it a routine to **play some classical music** at the beginning of the day – perhaps when the children are taking off their coats, settling in the classroom or entering an assembly. We've scattered a few **spring-inspired pieces** as starting ideas across these pages.

*The Lark Ascending*  
Vaughan-Williams



### ART

#### MONET'S WATER LILIES

Monet (1840-1926) made a series of 250 paintings depicting the water lilies in his garden throughout the different seasons; in these **he responded to the changing colours**, textures and light in the garden.

Is there a school pond that the children could study? If so, get them to create drawings and paintings, responding to it on different days throughout the seasons. (Or use another area of the school such as a garden or perhaps a tree.) How does it look in spring – are there new colours and shapes? **Have an exhibition** to celebrate all the different ways they individually perceive and respond to this scene.



*On Hearing the First Cuckoo in Spring*  
Delius



### POETRY

Compose an **Acrostic Spring Poem**.

As a class, brainstorm and collect spring words for each of the letters of **SPRING**. Then, ask the children to write some **SPRING** poems developing their favourite ideas/words into a line for each letter.

**S**unshine peeping through the grey,  
**P**etals sprouting, on their way.  
**R**ainbows arching overhead,  
**I**nsects waking from their beds,  
**N**ew life blooming everywhere,  
**G**rowing wild, without a care!

*Ballet of the Unhatched Chicks*  
Mussorgsky



### CRAFT

#### GO SEED CRAZY!

**How many things** can you do with **pumpkin seeds**?

Set a challenge for your class/school. Here are some ideas to start you off:

- Paint them and use them as leaves in a tree collage
- Paint them and use them as fish (or mermaid) fins in a **seascape collage**
- Insert them into a lump of clay to **make a hedgehog**

*Frühlingslied (Spring Song)*  
Mendelssohn



### DANCE

#### REVELATIONS

ALVIN AILEY (1960)

([vimeo.com/10185543](https://vimeo.com/10185543))

This is a useful and informative dance to watch around **Easter time**. Ailey created this three-part dance about African-American history, which depicts the struggle from slavery to freedom. Its story can be interpreted to be more generally about struggle and conflict within oneself, but how **holding on to faith** can pull you through. The *Take Me To The Water* baptism scene is a good reference when thinking about Easter – the dancers perform as if they are being 'reborn', fitting the story of the resurrection. The final section is performed as the dancers rejoice in church. Here's an interview with the dancers talking about the dance itself: [vimeo.com/159863911](https://vimeo.com/159863911)

### DANCE

#### SINGIN' IN THE RAIN

Use the famous **Singin' In the Rain dance** by Gene Kelly (1952) as inspiration to **choreograph your own dance**, to accompany the song *It's A Spring Thing!* There's surely potential for some **umbrella action** here!

