



THE WORLD OF
PETER RABBIT™
Beatrix Potter™

GROW WITH PETER RABBIT™

LEARNING RESOURCES FOR KS1 and LKS2





Introduction

Suitable for: Ages 4-7

Aim: To foster a love of the garden and gardening!

Outcome: Children will learn to recognise different fruits and vegetables that can be grown in a garden. They will explore why people garden and discover that anybody can be a gardener. They will watch a seed germinate, grow some radishes to eat and make their own upcycled plant pot. They will also read the classic story *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*.

Subject Checklist:

✓ Science ✓ Literacy ✓ PHSE ✓ Maths ✓ Citizenship ✓ Art, Design & Technology

Themes:

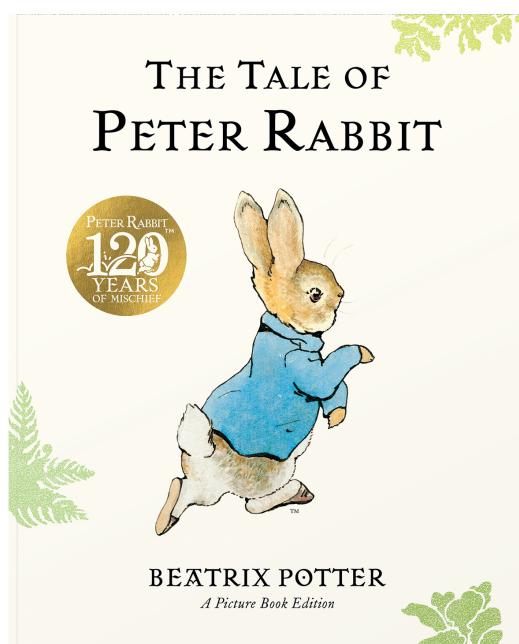
✓ Plants ✓ Gardening ✓ Growth ✓ Wellbeing ✓ Nature ✓ Looking after the environment

About the activities

This pack has been created to celebrate 120 years since *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* was first published.

The activities included will spark children's interest in growing plants and provide them with fun, hands-on gardening experiences. Gardening is great for wellbeing; it has positive physical and mental health benefits and anybody can do it. Whether your school has a large vegetable plot, a small outdoor area or just a sunny windowsill, there are gardening ideas in this pack for your class to try. There are four sessions in the pack, each with a starter, discussion prompts and activity. The sessions are flexible and can be adapted to the needs of your children. This pack also contains a variety of activities that can be scaled according to the age range of the children.

Let's get growing and learning with The World of Peter Rabbit™





Contents

Pages

1. What is gardening?

4–7

Objectives: To consider why people garden; to understand that anybody can be a gardener; to identify fruits and vegetables that might be grown in a garden.

Activities: Read *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*, identify the fruits and vegetables Mr. McGregor grows in his garden; design a garden; start a class Gardening Club

2. Looking at growth

8–9

Objectives: To describe how a seed grows into a plant; to make and record observations.

Activities: Plant a bean seed, watch it germinate and record observations.

3. Grow your own!

10–11

Objectives: To sow seeds and care for seedlings; to write a short instruction text.

Activities: Grow some radishes to eat; write a set of instructions on how to grow radishes.

4. Upcycling in the garden

12–13

Objectives: To know what ‘upcycling’ is and why it is good for the environment; to use a range of construction skills to make a plant pot.

Activities: Make a plant pot from an old drink carton; plant and care for microgreen seeds





1. What is gardening?

Objectives: To consider why people garden; to understand that anybody can be a gardener; to identify some fruits and vegetables that might be grown in a garden.

Curriculum links: Science, PSHE, Citizenship, Art and Design.

Starter: The Tale of Peter Rabbit

You might like to start by reading the book, *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*. Why do you think Peter Rabbit visits Mr. McGregor's garden? Where is your favourite garden?

Discussion: What do you know about gardening?

A gardener is somebody who grows and looks after plants. What do you know about gardening?
Discuss the following questions with your class:



Discussion points:

Mr. McGregor grows plants in his garden, but gardeners can grow plants in lots of different places. For example, a gardener might grow plants in pots on a windowsill or balcony, on an allotment, in a community garden or on a farm. Where have you seen people growing plants?

People garden for lots of reasons including to grow food, to feel happy, to relax, to get exercise, to make new friends and to make a place look beautiful. Some people garden to provide food and homes for wildlife including Peter Rabbit's friends: hedgehogs like Mrs. Tiggy-winkle and frogs like Mr. Jeremy Fisher.

Everybody can be a gardener! It doesn't matter how old you are, what you look like, what abilities, skills or experience you have, you can be a gardener! Do you know anybody who enjoys gardening? Have you ever gardened?





Activity 1: Identify garden fruits and vegetables

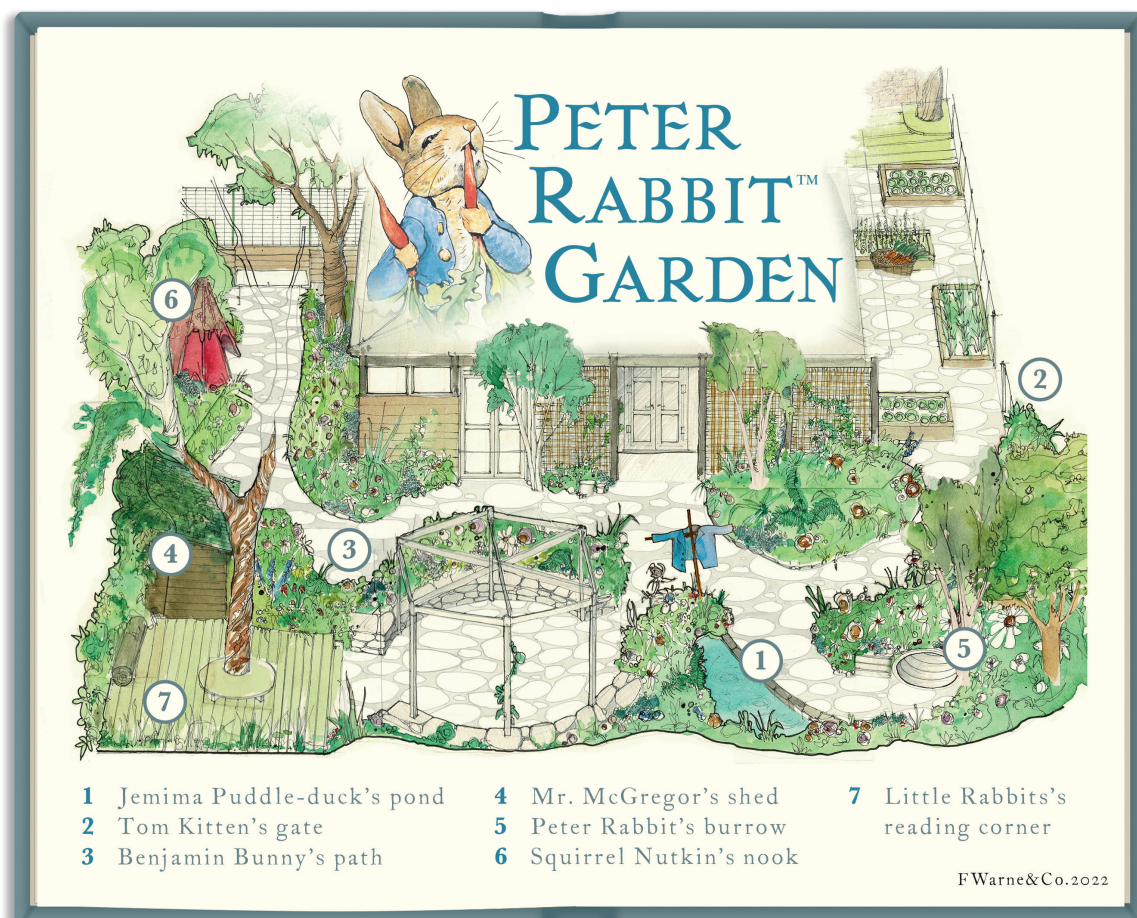
Peter Rabbit loves to eat the fruits and vegetables that grow in Mr. McGregor's garden. Sometimes he eats so many his tummy hurts! On page 7 you will see some of the delicious fruits and vegetables Mr. McGregor grows. Can you name them? Have you tried any of them? Are there any you would you like to try? Draw some of your favourite fruits and vegetables.

Activity 2: Design your own garden

Can you design a garden of your own? Where will your garden be? Perhaps it could be on a rooftop or balcony? Who will your garden be for? What will you grow? Perhaps you will grow vegetables to eat, flowers for the bees or trees for birds to nest in? Mr. McGregor's garden has a pond in it; what features will your garden have?

Describe your garden to a partner, draw a picture of it using the sheet on page 8, or make a model. Do you think Peter Rabbit and his friends would like to visit your garden? What adventures might they get up to?

Did you know? The World of Peter Rabbit has teamed up with pioneering garden designers Grow2Know to create 3 Peter Rabbit gardens in local communities over the next 3 years. Have a look at one below for some inspiration





Further ideas:

Would you like to do some gardening? Why not start your own class Peter Rabbit Gardening Club? All you need to make your own class garden is a little bit of outside space or even just on a sunny windowsill. You can grow plants in the ground or in pots. What would you like to grow?

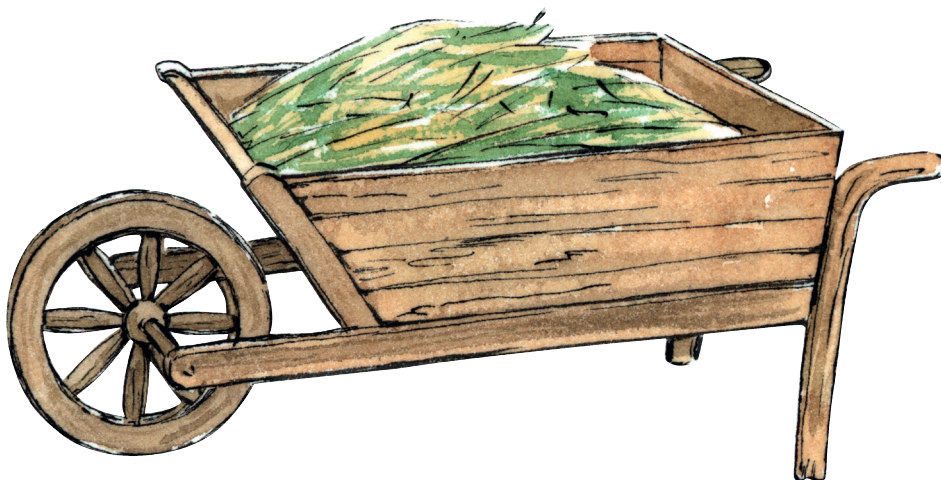
Here are some of the different activities you might do in your Peter Rabbit Gardening Club:

- Sowing seeds
- Planting seedlings
- Watering
- Weeding
- Digging
- Caring for wildlife
- Picking food
- Tasting the food you've grown!

Play a game of gardening charades! Mime one of these activities. Can your partner guess which one you are miming? Which activities are you looking forward to trying in your Gardening Club?

Out and about

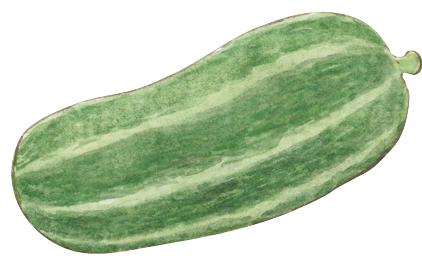
Peter Rabbit loves visiting gardens! Perhaps there are some allotments, community gardens or public gardens near you that you could visit? Can you spot any of Peter Rabbit's favourite foods growing?





Mr. McGregor's fruits and vegetables

Here are some of the fruits and vegetables Mr. McGregor grows in his garden.
Do you recognise any of them? Can you match each fruit or vegetable with its name?



- | | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Marrow | Radishes | Strawberries | Lettuce |
| Turnip | Cabbage | | Apple |

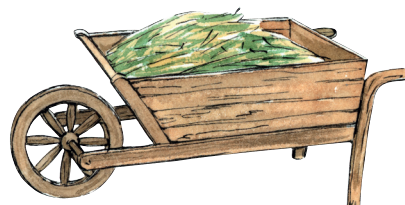
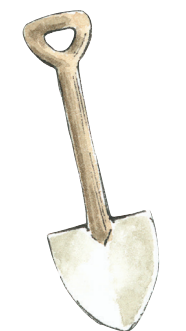
Draw some of your favourite fruits and vegetables in the space below:





Design a garden!

Draw your garden design in the space below. Where will your garden be? What will you grow? What features will your garden have?





2. Looking at growth

Objectives: To describe how seeds grow into plants; to make and record observations.

Curriculum links: Science, Literacy, Maths.

Vocabulary: Seed, germination, seedling, main root, side root, stem, leaves.

Starter: Guess the fruit or vegetable!

On page 11 you will find some cards with pictures of Peter Rabbit's favourite foods. Cut the cards out and place them face down at the front of the classroom. Choose a volunteer to come to the front and take one card (without showing it to the rest of the class). The volunteer must describe the fruit or vegetable on the card. However, they are not allowed to say the name of the fruit or vegetable or use any colour words! Can the class guess which fruit or vegetable they are describing?

Discussion: How do plants grow?

Peter Rabbit loves eating beans. Can you order the steps on page 12 to show how a bean plant grows? Isn't it amazing that a whole plant grows from a tiny seed?!

Activity: Observe germination

The beginning of the growth of a seed into a seedling is called germination. A seed needs water, warmth and oxygen to germinate. A seed does not need food to germinate as it has a store of food inside itself. Why not plant your own bean seed so you can watch it germinate?

You will need:

A plastic cup or glass jar, paper towels, a bean seed (e.g. runner bean or broad bean), water.

Instructions:

1. Fill your cup or jar with paper towels.
2. Put a bean seed between the paper towels and the side of the cup or jar (so that you can see the bean through the plastic or glass).





3. Pour a small amount of water into your jar.
The paper towel should absorb the water.



4. Create a label with your name and date and stick it to your jar.

This bean belongs to:
Date:.....

5. Observe your seed closely every day and notice any changes. Do you notice the seed expanding as it absorbs water? What happens next?



6. If the paper towel dries out, add more water.

7. Draw your observations on the sheet on page 13. As your seedling grows, can you spot the main root, side roots, stem and leaves? Can you measure the root and stem with a ruler?

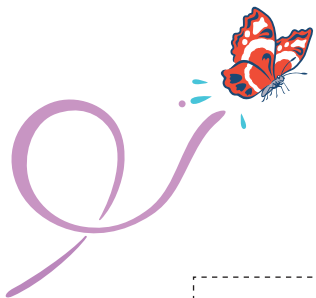


Tip – Make sure there are no mischievous rabbits around to nibble your seedlings!

Out and about

Do you love gardens as much as Peter Rabbit? Perhaps you could arrange a visit to a local garden centre? What seeds and plants do they sell? How do they make sure their plants have everything they need to stay healthy?





Guess the fruit or vegetable!

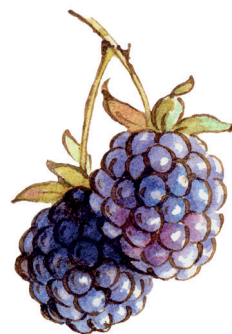
Cabbage



Apple



Blackberry



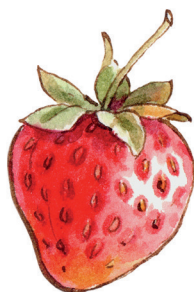
Turnip



Lettuce



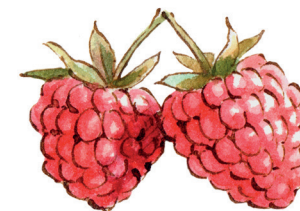
Strawberry



Radish



Raspberry

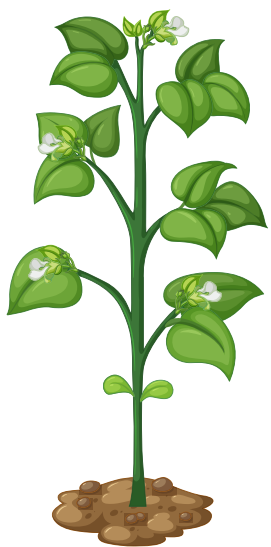




The growth of a bean plant

How does a bean plant grow? Can you cut out these steps and put them in the right order? Add drawings to bring each step to life!

Are there any steps that you might carry out more than once? Why?



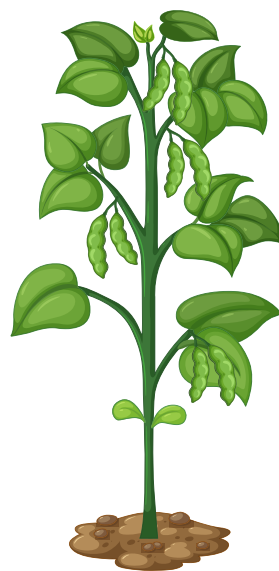
A fully grown bean plant emerges with small white flowers.



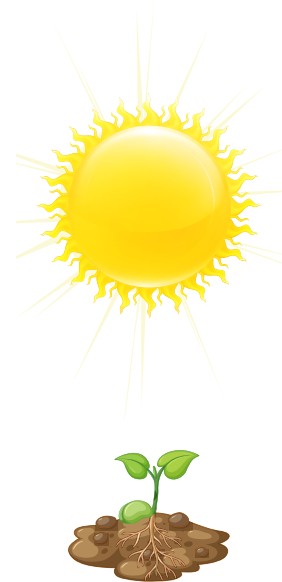
A watering can waters the soil where the bean has been planted.



A larger bean plant emerges.



The bean plant's flowers grow into beans.



A small seedling with only two leaves grows from the soil. The sun shines down on the seedling.



A bean seed is planted in the ground.





Observing germination

Observe your bean seed at four different stages of its growth. Write the date and draw what you can see. When your seedling has grown, can you label the main root, side roots, stem and leaves?



Date:.....



Date:.....



Date:.....



Date:.....





3. Grow your own!

Objectives: To sow seeds and care for seedlings; to write a short instruction text.

Curriculum links: Science, PSHE, Literacy.

Starter: Gardening tools

Have a look at the picture of Mr. McGregor's tool shed on page 16. Can you spot the different gardening tools? What do you think each of these gardening tools might be used for? Do you know any other tools that are used in the garden?

Discussion: What do plants need?

What do you think the plants in Mr. McGregor's garden need to grow?

Activity 1: Grow your own radishes!

Peter Rabbit loves to eat tasty radishes from Mr. McGregor's garden! Have you ever tried a radish? Follow the instructions below to grow some radishes of your own.

You will need: radish seeds, a plant pot that is at least 20cm deep with drainage holes, multi-purpose compost, a watering can, a trowel.

Tip - Take photos as you are planting your seeds so you can remember what you did!

Instructions:

1. Fill your pot with compost and pat it down.
2. Lightly water the compost.
3. Use your finger to make small holes in the compost. The holes should be about 1cm deep and about 5cm apart.
4. Put one radish seed into each hole and cover it over with compost.
5. Place your pot somewhere it will get some direct sunshine every day.
6. Water your seeds regularly.
7. When your seedlings are growing, if they seem too crowded, you can pick a few to give the others space. (This is called 'thinning out'.) You can eat the leaves of any seedlings you pick!
8. Your radishes should be ready to pick and eat in 4-8 weeks (check the back of your seed packet as varieties differ).

How do your radishes taste? Do you like them as much as Peter Rabbit does?





Activity 2: Instruction writing

Peter Rabbit's sisters Flopsy, Mopsy and Cotton-tail don't want to steal any radishes from Mr. McGregor's garden. They're worried they'll get caught! Can you write some instructions to show the bunnies how to grow their own radishes? Look at the photos you took when you were growing your own. What were the different steps? Use the template on page 17 to write your instructions.

Further ideas:

How did you feel when you were gardening? Lots of people find that gardening helps them feel happy or calm. Did you enjoy planting your seeds? Perhaps you'd like to try growing some more plants? Other seeds that are quick to germinate and can be grown in pots include pea shoots, 'cut and come again' lettuce or salad leaves, marigolds and nasturtiums (both nasturtium leaves and flowers are edible!)

Watch our videos with **GROW2KNOW** for more exciting ideas for growing and gardening!
www.peterrabbit.com/grow-with-peter-rabbit/

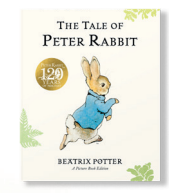
Tip – If any of your plants don't grow as well as you'd hoped, don't worry. Gardeners learn by trying things out and noticing what happens. Think about what you can learn from your gardening experience and have another go. Remember, Peter Rabbit makes lots of mistakes but he always picks himself up and tries again!





Gardening tools

Have a look at this picture of Mr. McGregor's tool shed from *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*.



Can you spot the following gardening tools?

- Watering can
- Spade
- Trowel
- Flowerpot
- Gardening gloves
- Broom
- Rake



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What do you think each of these gardening tools might be used for? Discuss with a partner.

Do you know any other tools that are used in the garden?

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How to grow radishes

You will need:.....

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Instructions:

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4. Upcycling in the garden

Objectives: To understand what upcycling is and why it is good for the environment; to use a range of construction skills to create a plant pot.

Curriculum links: Science, Citizenship, Design and Technology.

Starter: What can you see?

Have a look at this picture from *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*. What can you see?



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What did Mr. McGregor do with the blue jacket and shoes he found in his garden? Why?
Do you think it worked?

Discussion: What is upcycling?

Instead of throwing away Peter Rabbit's jacket, Mr. McGregor used it to make a scarecrow. Can you look up the word 'upcycling' in a dictionary to find out what it means? Have you seen any examples of upcycling? In what ways do you think upcycling is good for the environment?



Activity: Turn an old drink carton into a plant pot!

You will need: a used drink carton rinsed with water, scissors, a tool to make drainage holes in the base of your cartons (you could use a skewer or screwdriver), multi-purpose compost, microgreen seeds such as cress. You will need to work with an adult when using scissors and other sharp objects.

Instructions:

1. Lay your carton on one side and cut a large rectangle out of the side facing up.
2. Place your pot on a soft surface (such as on the grass outside or on some blue tac). Make some drainage holes by carefully pushing your screwdriver or skewer through the bottom of your pot six to eight times.
3. Fill your pot with compost and gently pat it down. Water the soil lightly.
4. Plant some microgreen seeds in your pot following the instructions on the seed packet.
5. Place your planter on a tray next to a window.
6. Water your planter regularly. Your microgreens should be ready to eat in about two weeks. Cut using scissors and enjoy in a salad or sandwich!

Remember, when you upcycle old objects instead of throwing them away, you are helping to look after the natural world for Peter Rabbit and his friends to enjoy!

Further ideas

Keep an eye out for waste items that could be upcycled for use in the garden. Old plastic spoons, yoghurt pots or lolly sticks can be made into plant labels. Old teapots or mugs make decorative flowerpot holders. Perhaps you could experiment with making an old welly boot or football into a planter?! Watch our videos with **GROW2KNOW** for more brilliant upcycling ideas!

www.peterrabbit.com/grow-with-peter-rabbit/

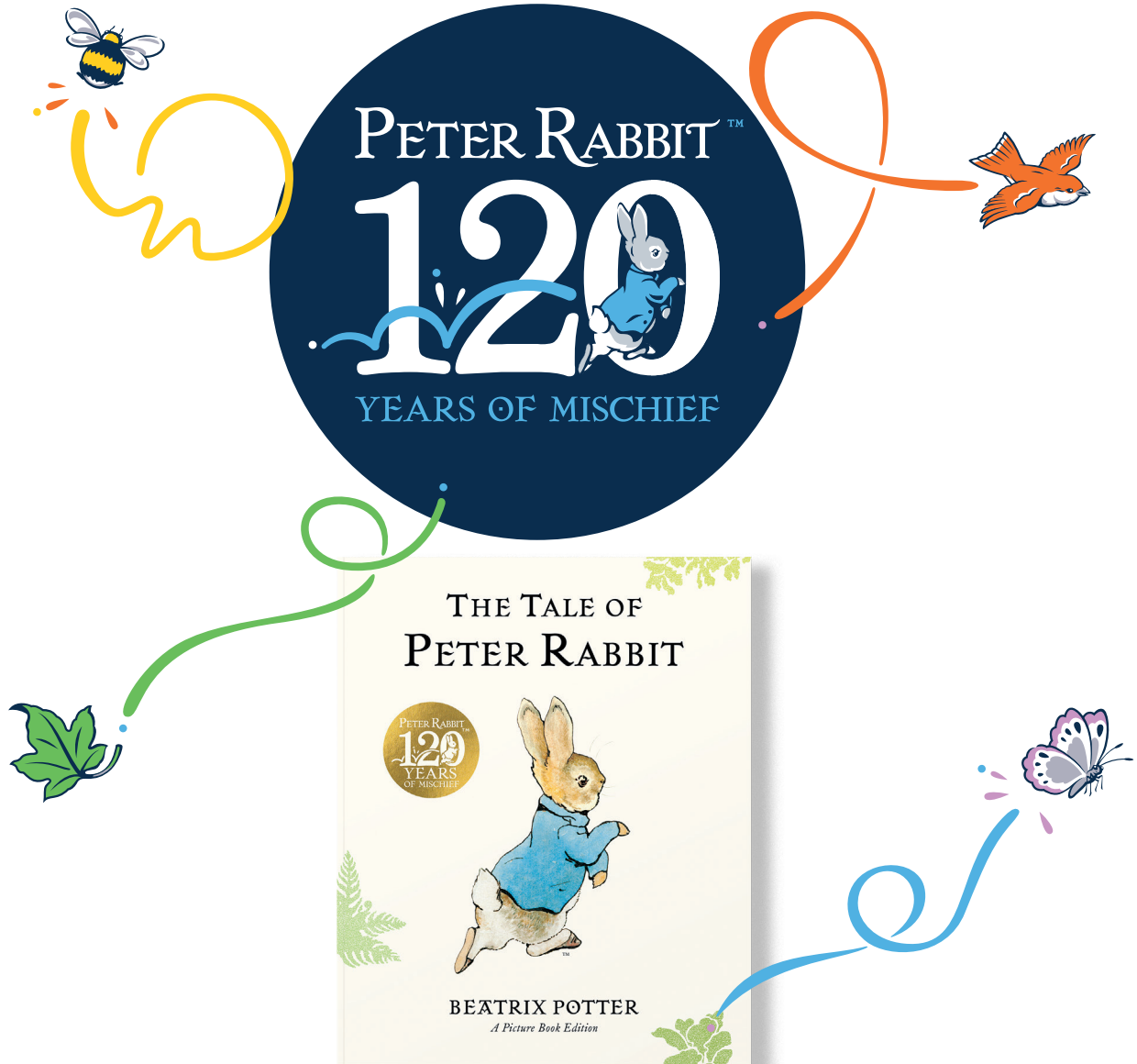
Out and about

Peter Rabbit likes nothing more than sitting outside and tucking into some freshly grown vegetables! Why not organise a class picnic with some of the foods you have grown? You might even see some of Peter Rabbit's friends like Squirrel Nutkin, the sparrows or the robin while you are enjoying your picnic!





CELEBRATE



Head to www.peterrabbit.com for more fun activities!

#GrowwithPeterRabbit #PeterRabbit120 @officialpeterrabbit

