

## Air-dry clay fun – inspired by flowers and leaves

### Today you can:

- Make a small decoration in the shape of a leaf.
- See the impressions the veins of a leaf can make on clay.
- Add a pressed flower to the clay.
- Or just make something small and fun to take away to dry. Maybe a funny face or an animal.

### About air dry clay:

- The clay needs to dry before you can paint it – this can take 1–4 days depending on how hot it is and how thick the clay is. **So we won't be decorating it today.**
- Air-dry clay isn't as strong as regular clay that is 'cooked' in a kiln so it is best not to make it very thin or it is likely to break when hard.



### In the garden:

1. Find a space on the table with a 'board' to work on. If there isn't space, you will need to come back later.
2. Emma will give you a piece of white or brown clay. We have more brown than white clay.
3. She will also give you a plastic container with a cardboard liner to take your creations away with you. If you won't recognise it, write your name on the container or on a piece of paper in it.
4. Pull the clay into as many pieces as you wish – a little goes a long way. If you don't like what you have made, mush it up and try again.
5. If you want to make a flat object, you can use the clear plastic roller or just your fingers.
6. There are clay tools to shape the clay and make a hole for hanging.
7. There are two pastry cutters in the shape of leaves. One has a 'press' on it for some simple leaf veins.
8. If you want to make leaf impressions, we have some leaves we have harvested – but you can also go hunting yourself. Sage leaves work well.
9. There are some seeds to add if you wish for texture.
10. We have some packs of coloured flowers, which work well. They absorb some of the water from the clay and then when the clay dries they peel off a bit but can be glued back down with varnish/PVA.



### When you get home:

1. Put the container with your clay somewhere safe to dry. You could add extra seeds etc until it starts getting hard.
2. When it is dry, you can paint it. Acrylic paint will be best, but childrens' poster paint works well too. If you rub it away the thicker paint sits in the leaf impressions.
3. To protect it, you can varnish it, but washable PVA works well too.