Refer to *Introduction to Mindfulness* at the beginning of this book for more information and tips on Mindfulness practice.

Butterfly Body Scan

- ☆ Guide pupils through the following mindfulness practice, using the script below.
- Instruct pupils to start in Lying-down Mountain posture. If space does not allow for lying down while maintaining physical distancing, start in Sitting Mountain posture.

Close your eyes and imagine you are lying down on lovely green grass, maybe in a garden or a park, on a nice sunny day... You see a beautiful butterfly. Picture in your head what colour it is - Blue? White? Red? Orange? Maybe it's your favourite colour or a mixture of colours. Take a moment to really notice the butterfly... *(pause)*

This is a friendly butterfly and it is fluttering around peacefully, gently landing on flowers here and there...

Now the butterfly is landing softly on your <u>forehead</u>... you can barely feel it there... It rests there for a moment and you feel your forehead relaxing... *(pause)*

Breathe in now, as the butterfly moves onto your <u>right shoulder</u> and flutters down your <u>arm</u>, relaxing your <u>shoulder and arm</u> as it lands, so softly and gently... Then it flies onto the <u>other shoulder and arm</u> ...relaxing your whole arm as it moves. Feel how both arms are relaxed now... *(pause)*

The butterfly flutters over to your <u>tummy</u>... As it lands you feel your tummy softening and relaxing... Breathe slowly and gently, careful not to frighten it away... *(pause)*

Now, the butterfly moves to your <u>right leg</u>... Feel your whole leg relaxing as it pauses there for a moment, nice and still... and it flits over to the <u>other leg</u> now.... Feel both of your legs relaxing from the butterfly's touch... (pause)

The butterfly is fluttering down to your <u>right foot</u>... As it lands on the tip of your <u>big</u> toe you feel the <u>whole foot</u> starting to soften and relax... After a moment, it flutters over to your <u>other big toe</u>... Now that <u>whole foot</u> begins to feel warm and soft as it relaxes... Feel your <u>whole body</u> relax; head... shoulders... arms... hands... tummy... legs... feet... (pause)

After a few moments the butterfly lifts off and it is gone... disappearing off into flowers and trees...

Breathing in, begin listening to the sounds in the classroom... Breathing out, feel the floor under you... *(pause)*

Breathing in, open your eyes and gently wiggle your fingers and toes... and when you're ready, roll over slowly onto your right side and come up to Sitting Mountain... pause here, take a few deep breaths and smile...

Additional printable and interactive resources to support these activities are available online at $\underline{www.IrishHeart.ie}$



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Mindfulness

Learning across the Curriculum

Balloon Breathing

This Bizzy Break can be used as a starting point to explore **breathing** and **feelings**. You might like to try the below activities.

SPHE

Strand: Myself **Strand Unit:** Growing and changing

 Discussing how specific feelings and emotions make our bodies feel. Think about how our breathing is affected by different emotions and how we can use our breathing to help us deal with feelings.



Strand: Living things **Strand Unit:** Human life

- Investigating the lungs and the different parts of the respiratory system. (Note that in the above activity, the belly breathing aims to engage the diaphragm muscle).
- Creating a model of the lungs using balloons, recycled plastic bottles and straws.

Butterfly Body Scan

This Bizzy Break can be used as a starting point to explore **butterflies** and **descriptive language**. You might like to try the below activities.

Science

Irish Heart

Foundation

Strand: Living things **Strand Unit:** Plants and animals

• Researching the role of pollinators (such as bees and butterflies) in nature; discuss ways that they are in danger and things we can do to help create pollinator-friendly habitats.



Strand: Writing **Learning Outcome:** (5) Vocabulary

 Brainstorming descriptive words associated with each of the five senses. Challenge pupils to write a short story or poem using descriptive language that engages the reader's/listener's senses.

Additional printable and interactive resources to support these activities are available online at www.lrishHeart.ie