



Nursery Newsletter Part 1

Wildlife Action Awards



Background

This year as part of the school's ECO initiatives the Nursery are taking part in the RSPB Wildlife Action Awards. To qualify for this award we have to undertake 6 tasks throughout the year.

Task One - Recycling

The children decorated boxes so that we could keep our plastic and cardboard waste separate.

We sorted out the recycling in Nursery into the different categories and then we took it to our local recycling bins at the local shopping centre so that it could be collected by the Council.

We are also collecting our food scraps such as fruit peelings which we put in our own composting bins





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Task Two

Looking after wildlife

We made two different sorts of birdfeeders. For the first we collected cheese, raisins, apple and porridge oats. The children enjoyed the experience of feeling, tasting and smelling all the different ingredients which we mixed together with lard or vegetable fat. When it was all combined we squashed it into yoghurt pots and left it in the fridge to set. The next day we took them into the woods and hung them on the trees for the birds to eat. We weren't sure whether to take the mixture out of the pots or not so we took half out and left half in!

For our next birdfeeders we used breakfast cereal hoops which we threaded onto pipe cleaners with pieces of cheese, wholemeal bread, raisins and apple. We hung these in the nursery garden on a Friday and by the Monday morning when we came back everything had gone!





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Task Three - Going on a bug hunt!

We have an area of woodland adjacent to our school grounds and this is a great resource for the children to use to learn about wildlife. We set off with our minibeast identification charts, magnifying glasses and bug holding boxes to see what we could find. The staff helped the children to look under logs to find out whether anything had made a home there. Some of the creatures moved very fast so we had to be quick to capture them. We found earwigs, a tiny spider, some slugs and a millipede and most exciting of all we discovered a type of scorpion called 'the devils coachman'. We had a good look at them in our bug viewing boxes and then we released them back into the woods so they could go home again.





Nursery Newsletter Part 4

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Task 4

Looking after wildlife - Making a wildflower meadow and herb bed.

To encourage wildlife to come into the nursery garden we planted three areas, one with wildflower seeds, one with woodland seeds and one with a variety of herbs. The children looked at the pictures on the seed packets and chose which ones they wanted to plant. Then, with the support of the staff they mixed the seeds with some soil in a tray and helped to put the mixture in the flower bed. The seed and soil mixture was spread evenly around and then the seeds were given a good watering. The children will be given the opportunity to water the seeds regularly and check on how they are doing. We hope they will provide food for butterflies and bees in the coming months.





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Task Five – Making a Bug Hotel

In 2016 the Nursery entered a competition at the Gardening Scotland Show. We came second in our planter category, but the winning entry was a Bug Hotel. We were so impressed by this that we decided to create our own. The wooden structure was made by the nursery staff and we were lucky to have had the support of Lily the Park Ranger and her team from Holyrood to help us fill it with lots of wildlife friendly resources. They brought along leaves, bamboo pieces, sticks, straw and pinecones and these were added to add to the items we had already collected from the local woods. The children were able to experience all of these materials and add them to the boxes which will form the hotel in due course.

