



Outdoor Learning Newsletter

Autumn 2023



We fully embrace the vision stated in the Church of England’s Vision for Education ‘Deeply Christian Serving the Common Good’ published in July 2016 of educating the whole person. We aim for our children and members of the wider school community to flourish in all they do and ‘live life in all its fullness’. (John 10:10)

At Nutfield Church school we are proud to have constructed a curriculum that is ambitious and designed to give all pupils the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life. One afternoon a week is dedicated to Wellbeing. During Wellbeing afternoons, children are taught Wellbeing Theory; P4C (Philosophy for children) and PSHE on a three-week rotation. In addition, the children also have an hour of PE during their Wellbeing afternoon. Wellbeing+ sits at the core of the Wellbeing Strand. Wellbeing + is a skills-based curriculum, whereby knowledge and skills and skills are acquired by doing. Children apply what they are learning in Wellbeing Theory lessons to real-life scenarios, which helps them to fully grasp the subject and its application as well as developing the skills they will need as adults. The abundance of land at Nutfield Church Primary School allows our children to have frequent and progressive experience in the school grounds. During their Wellbeing+ lessons children have the opportunity to actively engage in hands-on activities such as animal husbandry, animal conservation and gardening. It is widely recognised that outdoor learning is a powerful tool that is proven to raise attainment, booster social, emotional and personal development and contribute to the mental health of our children, which is why so much value is place on the teaching of Wellbeing at Nutfield Church Primary School.

Chickens: Year 1

Fun fact....Did you know that chickens bathe themselves by covering themselves in dirt?

As part of the Wellbeing+ Curriculum , Year 1 are responsible for tending to the chickens and attending to all their needs. They have been thinking about what the chickens need to stay healthy and happy and that chickens have needs just like humans. In their Wellbeing Theory lessons, the children created some portrait drawings of the chickens. They spent time observing and carefully sketching them. They thought about all the different features, and textures.

Can you name the different parts of a chicken?





Layla *"The chickens lay good eggs and they go on the swing."*

Louie *"I like stroking the chickens and holding the eggs."*

Jake *"The chickens love meal worms. It is their favourite."*

Mathilde *"The chickens have feathers and beaks like other birds."*



Trinity Gardens: Year 2

Year 2: Trinity Farm

Over the first half of the Autumn Term, the children in Year 2 have been out in small groups every week weeding and composting the plots in both the Kitchen Garden and Trinity Gardens.

Harry "I like digging the holes for the seeds to be planted. I like to be outside and watch the plants grow."

Olive "We have been pulling out the weeds and growing new plants. I like to watch them grow."

In Wellbeing Theory lessons, the children have been learning about the seasons and the optimal time to plant vegetable seeds in order to get the best harvest.



Peter Rabbit

In the spring term of 2021, children in Reception adopted Peter Rabbit. Peter lives outside in a cosy hutch with his own walk-in run. He is visited each day by the Reception children, who ensure that he is fed, watered, cleaned and played with. The children are learning what Peter needs to be happy and healthy. Peter loves celery but too many carrots are bad for him, as they are like sweets for rabbits!

Kitty "He likes carrots and cold broccoli!"

Sophie "I like stroking Peter and feeding him."





WHAT TO FEED YOUR RABBIT?

GRASS HAY

80% (unlimited)

LEAFY GREENS

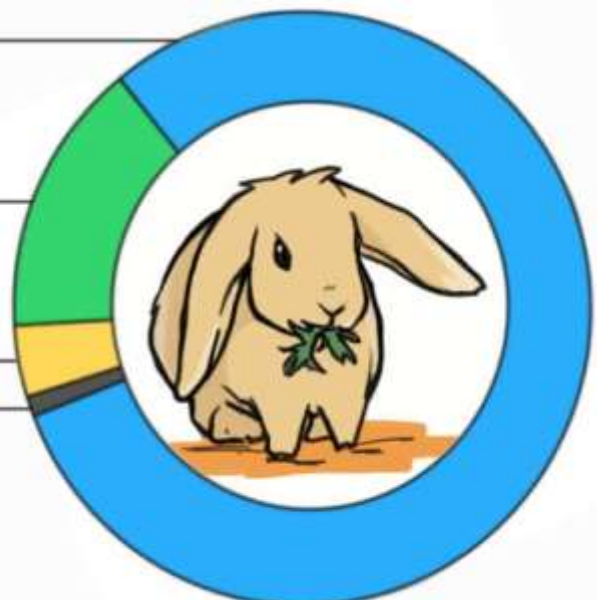
15% (about 1 to 2 cups)

PELLETS

4% (about 1/4 to 1/2 cup)

TREATS

1% (about 1 to 2 Tbsp)



Year 3: The Wildlife Area

Every week, as part of the children's Wellbeing+ lessons, small groups of children from Year 3 have been visiting the wildlife area. As part of their visit they spend time in the bird hide and record the bird activity in the school grounds. Part of this role also involves refreshing our two bird feeders with seeds and fat balls. This year the children are also trying to encourage hedgehogs into the school grounds and during their Wellbeing + lessons children have also been finding and preparing suitable sites for the two hedgehog homes in the wildlife area.

Harriet "Birdwatching is fun because when you look closely at birds they have different coloured wings and they are very colourful."



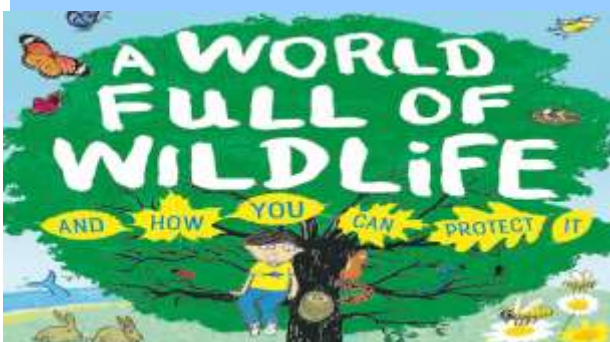
British nature is currently in a crisis. 1 in 7 species of plant and animal face extinction, and over half the country's wildlife species are in decline. This is largely due to the high population density of the UK and the associated urbanisation. The extent of our urbanisation has left the UK as one of the most nature-depleted countries on earth, with over 40% of natural habitats at risk of being lost. However, the children learnt that thanks to conservation efforts across the country, progress is being made on several fronts to help restore habitats and protect wildlife.



Year 3 have signed up to 'Hedgehog Street!'.

We are pledging to help hedgehogs in our area.....

- 1) Ask Fred to help us make a hedgehog highway around our school
- 2) Make a hedgehog home
- 3) Put out food and water
- 4) Keep an eye out for hedgehogs and post it on the site.



What do Hedgehogs eat?



HEDGEHOG FACTS FOR KIDS

Erinaceus europaeus

TYPE ★ MAMMAL ★	Food Omnivorous Diet. Eats Insects, small animals and fruits and vegetables.
Range Europe Asia Africa	Predators Foxes, Snakes, Owls
Lifespan 3-7 years	Habitat Woodland, Meadows and Grasslands
Distinct Features Spikes or Quills Long snout	Behaviour Nocturnal Solitary Self-Anointing

Did you know?

- Hedgehogs can swim
- They Hibernate
- They can walk Far
- Hedgehogs are Lactose intolerant
- They curl when threatened
- They are gardener's friend



Year 3 have been learning about attracting hedgehogs to our wildlife area.

HEDGEHOG HOTEL!

Put out cat food and water.

Stop using slug chemicals.

make you pond safe By using a ramp in pond.

Check for litter at night.

Creates a Hedgehog Home or Highway.

Creates a wild corner.

Chickens: Year 5

Did you know?....Some research suggests that chickens are just as clever as human toddlers

As part of their Wellbeing + learning the children take it in turns to look after the chickens. It is the responsibility of Year 5 to tidy the chicken coop and run, and to date stamp the eggs. As part of their Wellbeing Theory lessons, Year 5 have been learning all about eggs.

The children then went on to look at the difference between free range eggs and battery farm eggs and animal welfare.

Grace "We learnt about the battery cage system and why it was called that. I like the free range system best because the chickens are happy."

Did you know?.....Hens communicate with their chicks while they're still inside their eggs!



The chickens can't leave the cage.

This is the battery cages



The chickens can leave the cage if they want to.

The Barn system



The chickens can run around freely.



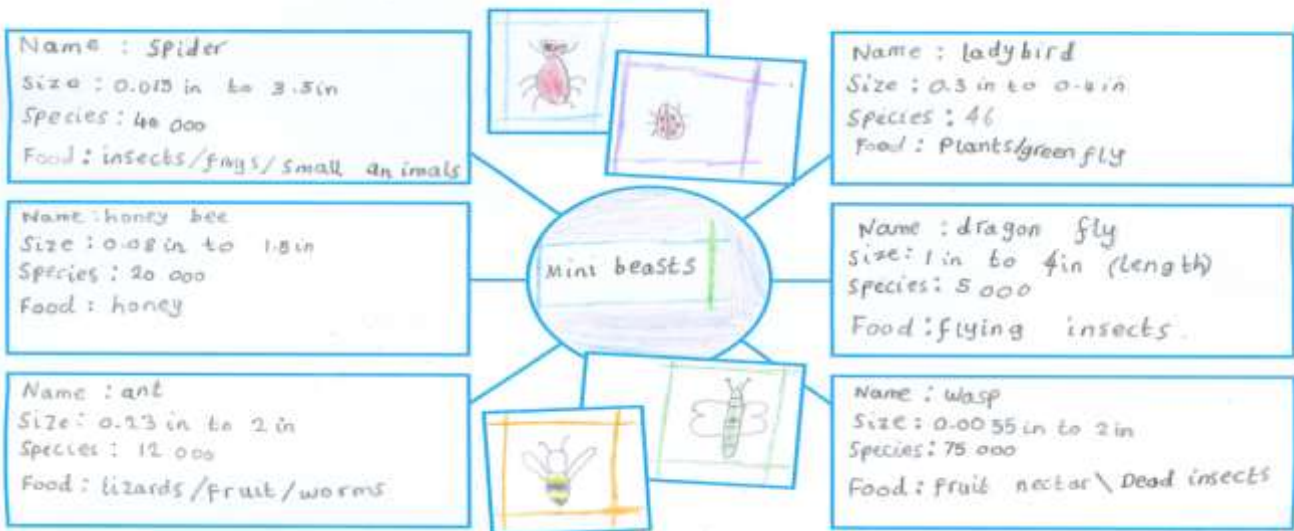
Bug Hotel: Year 4

Interesting facts.....

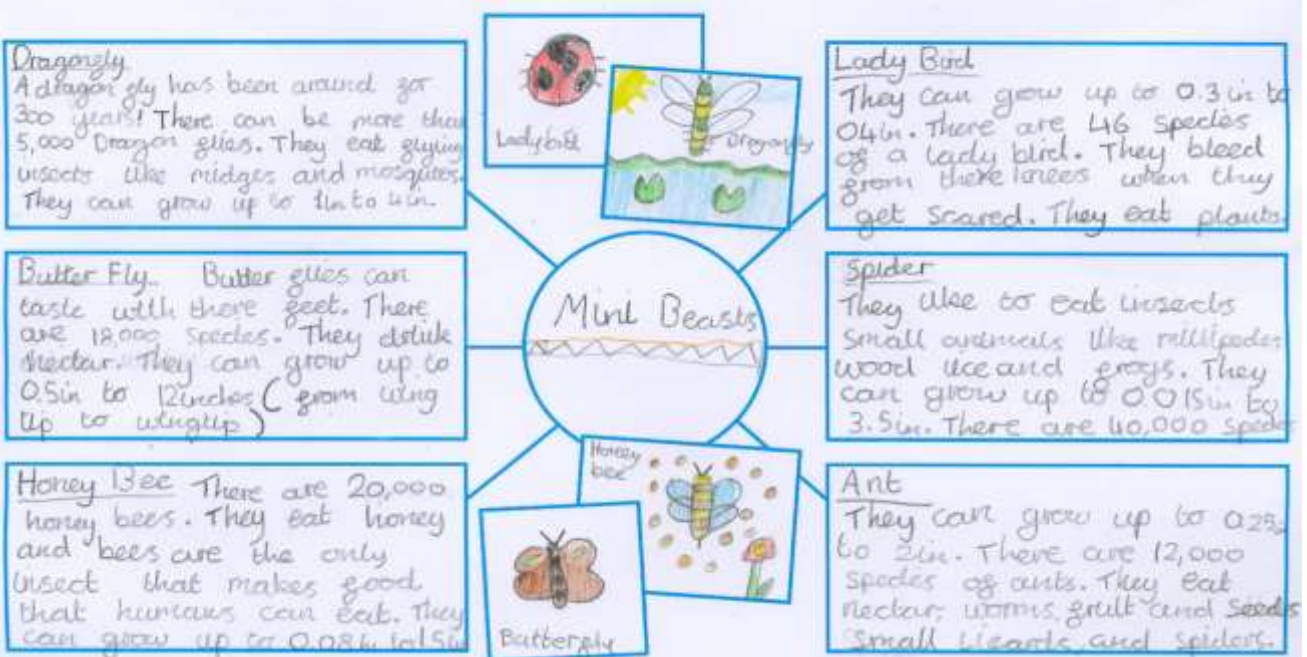


Year 4 enjoyed researching bugs that would inhabit the school grounds and their preferred habitats. They then created bug fact files based on their research. What's your favourite minibeast?

Minibeasts



Minibeasts





Year 6: Guinea Pigs

Do you know what the two school guinea pigs are called? Every day the children in Year 6 tend to the guinea pigs. Daily tasks include refreshing the water, hay and vegetables and handling the guinea pigs. Weekly tasks include changing the bedding, cleaning out the hutch and giving the guinea pigs a health check.

In their Wellbeing Theory lessons, children in Year 6 have been researching guinea pigs and also researching the benefits of having pets in schools.

Benefits of school pets

- Having animals to care for ties in with the school curriculum of emotional and social needs – empathy, care, love, compassion, understanding, commitment and building confidence.
- Pets can encourage a child's learning needs, especially in reading, communication, observation and speaking.



Guinea Pig Fact File

Gestation period?

Guinea pigs are pregnant for about 59-72 days, the litter ranges from 1-8 pups, but 2-4 is more common to have! The Guinea pigs have up to 5 litters per year.

Habitat?

The common place to find wild Guinea pigs is in the mountains of South America. Their bedding consists of: paper, straw, fleece, wood and hay. Guinea pigs should not be alone they should be in pairs.

How they should be looked after?

Guinea pigs need a high fibre diet supplemented with Vitamin C. They get very lonely so that is why they should be kept in pairs.



Type of Guinea Pig? life span?

The types of Guinea pigs there are, are: Skinny pig, American Guinea, Teddy Guinea, Texal Guinea, English crested Guinea, Fawn and Rex's Guinea's. Their life span is 5-6 years.

A Guinea pig's diet consume of many things like: Kiwi, kale, Apple, Potato, tomatoes, Diet?

What they can eat: Hay, Grass, Herbs, Plants, Strawberries, locally.

What they can't eat: Cereals grains, Nuts, Avocado, Iceberg lettuce.


☆ GUINEA PIG Fact File ☆

☆ Habitat ☆

A wild guinea pig's natural habitat is the great mountains of South America where the climate change is tough making them very adaptable.

☆ How long do they live for?

Typically the normal amount of time that guinea pigs live for is 5-7 years. Some guinea pigs live longer if you treat them correctly.



☆ What do guinea pigs eat? ☆

A guinea pig's diet consumes of a whole variety of different goods like: Strawberries, Blueberries, Carrots, Kale, Cilantro, Rhubarb, Oranges, Kiwi and many more. It is advised that guinea pigs do not eat: Avocado, Nuts, Seeds, Dried beans, Corn, peas and iceberg Lettuce.

☆ Guinea pig facts ☆

There are 14 different types of guinea pigs. Guinea pigs are pregnant for a total of 59-72 days. Did you know that guinea pigs have an odd number of toes? Also, they have to go to the vet once a year for a checkup.

☆ What do guinea pigs look like? ☆

Guinea pigs (also known as cavies) are compact, round, with short legs and no tails. Their whiskers are to protect their eyes and to help them sense without sight.


GUINEA PIGS!

DESCRIPTION

Guinea pigs, also known as cavies, are social animals with a robust, compact, rounded body shape, short legs and no tail. The fur varies in length, texture and colour. The feet have hairless soles and short, sharp claws. There are many different colours, shapes and breeds. Some common breeds are: Peruvian, Skinny, Abyssinian, American, Teddy, Fawn, Cay, Rex, Hairless, English crested, Himalayan, Java and Corolla.

Diet

Guinea pigs should have fresh grass as often as possible, ideally every day. They naturally graze, eating on grass, snails, vegetables and herbs, both dry and night. Guinea pigs can eat vegetables such as: carrots, broccoli, spinach, celery and kale. They can eat fruit such as: Apples, pears, Oranges, oranges, blueberries and strawberries. Guinea pigs also eat hay and dandelions. They can't eat: chives, garlic, leeks, onions, chocolate, bread and other carbs.



HABITAT

Cavies can be found across the South American continent, in open areas ranging from moist savanna to their forest and scrub desert. They live in low elevations right up to 16,000 feet (5,000 meters). Guinea pigs love to have attention and are best in a family room or living room.

10 FUN FACTS!

- These animals don't come from Guinea!
- Guinea pigs are not related to pigs at all.
- They don't get along with rabbits.
- Most guinea pigs live for 5-7 years.
- Guinea pigs prefer the dark to light.
- Cavies are pregnant from 59 days to 72 days.
- Guinea pigs have 14 toes.
- These animals are active for 20 hours over day and night.

10 FUN FACTS ABOUT GUINEA PIGS

- 1 **Guinea** Guinea pigs are not from Guinea and are not pigs.
- 2 Guinea pigs sleep in short periods and can be awake for 20 hrs a day!
- 3 Guinea pigs have four front toes and three back toes!
- 4 Guinea pig teeth never stop growing.
- 5 Baby guinea pigs are born fully formed and can run around at just a few hours old!
- 6 Guinea pigs popcorn when excited, a movement that consists of twists and squeaks!
- 7 Guinea pigs secrete a white substance from their eyes that they use to clean themselves.
- 8 Guinea pigs often sleep with their eyes open.
- 9 Some guinea pigs have swirly cowlicks across their bodies.
- 10 Guinea pigs have a wide field vision of 340 degrees.



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Final note.....We were so proud to appear in September in the monthly edition of the Bridge.



The
BRIDGE
Newspaper of the Anglican Diocese of Southwark



**Walking
Welcoming
Growing**

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Flying the Green Flag...

The Green Flag Award is the benchmark international standard for publicly accessible parks and green spaces in the United Kingdom and around the world. In this month's Bridge, Nutfield Church Primary School and St Mary's Church, Lewisham celebrate joining thousands in achieving Green Flag status.

Nutfield Church Primary School, Redhill

The Eco-Schools Green Flag Award is an internationally recognised achievement for schools and nurseries committed to learning for sustainability. To achieve this award, the school has worked on three of the Eco-Schools 'ten topics'. These topics specifically combat a variety of global issues such as climate change, biodiversity loss and plastic pollution. The topics Nutfield School chose were grounds, litter and biodiversity, and the school's Eco Team have been busy all year to help make the school as sustainable as possible.



Proud school children with their Eco Schools Award.

Headteacher, Miss Imogen Woods said, "Mrs Matthews, the wider staff team and the children's Eco Team have been working very hard over the past few years. I am immensely proud of the work that the children, teachers and families have done to make our school, community and indeed our planet, flourish. Our children are world changers, and it is a privilege to be part of their journey to the future."

As the new academic year begins, the school will be planning for their Eco work to be further embedded to work alongside the Diocesan 'Five Marks of Mission'.

Find out more: eco-schools.org.uk

Volunteering and Fundraising

Volunteers – we need you!

As you know, we are actively developing our Wellbeing curriculum as we focus on providing an outstanding Quality of Education for all children and the animals are a bold step towards that. The success of our outdoor learning curriculum is very much dependent on the generosity of our parents. We already have a thriving volunteer programme who help care for our animals at weekends and during the holidays. We are always looking for new volunteers, so if you think this is something you would like to be involved in, please contact the school office: info@nutfield.surrey.sch.uk

Donations

If you are unable to come into school at weekends or during the holidays there are other ways you can help. We have set up a tab on Sco-Pay and are asking parents and carers to donate £3 a month to help feed and care for our animals. Alternatively, attached to this newsletter is a list of essential items we need to care for our animals, just purchasing one of these items would help us to secure the future of our outdoor learning curriculum. These items are usually sourced from Pets at Home. Thank you so much in advance.

Thank you to the Nicholson family who continue to donate bales of straw and hay for our rabbits and guinea pigs. Our guinea pigs in particular eat an awful lot of hay so we are very grateful for the generous donation!



Chicken and Rabbit Shopping List



Adult rabbit pellets



Wood shavings



Meadow hay



Disinfectant spray



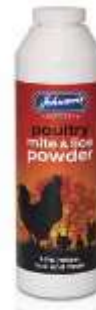
Gnawing toys



Layers Pellets



Verm-X Poultry Zest



Mite and lice powder



Mixed grit



Mixed corn