



Bowhill Primary School

Outdoor Learning

Spring Newsletter 2023

Issue 2



NATURE NOTES

SLOW WORMS, SPRING WILDFLOWERS, BLACKBIRD'S NEST

Spring has truly burst out all over the school. There are many species of wildflowers some of which are regarded as 'weeds' by many people. Not us! We have really enjoyed looking at how beautiful they are and how shape, structure and texture are just as interesting and wonderful as exotic plants from the garden centre. Our blackbird's have, unfortunately, abandoned their nest. The main photo in our newsletter shows a juvenile slow worm found by Rylea E on a Welly Wednesday afternoon. A truly remarkable creature. But enough about Rylea! This legless lizard is just one of the many vitally important elements in the Bowhill biosphere.

1

LEAVES

Millions of leaves have appeared on all of our lovely trees. Using sunlight to make energy.

2

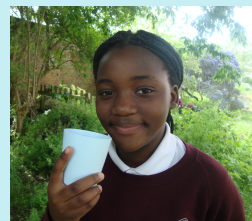
BIRDS

Listen out for screaming gangs of swifts above our school. They have arrived after wintering in Africa.

3

INSECTS

Bowhill is buzzing with bugs! There are beetles, wasps, ants and bees all being busy.



WELLY WEDNESDAY NEWBIES

For some children who take part in WW, it's their first time. Meet Millie, from Benjamin class. She's enjoying a hot chocolate after a lovely afternoon outdoors.

COMPOST CLUB

The team does a fantastic job of emptying the small compost bins from R/1/2/3 and the guinea pig waste into our numerous large compost bins. A vital service for the whole school!



WASP NEST

This incredible structure was made by wasps as a place to lay their eggs and raise young. It has perfect hexagonal cells inside, one for each egg. It is made from paper which the wasps make by chewing up wood and mixing it with their saliva. Ingenious!

WELLY WEDNESDAY

Finding newts in the pond; wildflower trails; wood pigeons raising young

Children who are chosen as the Outstanding Learner in their class join Mr Mawdsley and other nature nerds for Welly Wednesday. So far this term we have enjoyed several lovely afternoons in the Spring sunshine getting to know our outdoor areas. We also aim to make new friends and improve our health by having memorable encounters with the natural world.

‘I love tadpoles. We’ve got a pond in our garden at home and there are loads of them!’

Every afternoon is a bit different but we always end with a drink and a biscuit. Having some quiet time to reflect on the experience is a positive way to end our



sessions. Sitting on logs under the hornbeam tree is a great way to be thankful for the natural world and its part in our lives at school.

To work up an appetite, we have taken part in wildflower trails, looked for mini beasts and had a go at pond dipping.



OUR FEATHERED FRIENDS

We see lots of birds in our wonderful school grounds. Here’s a list of just some of them: carrion crows, magpies, blackbirds, sparrows, herring gulls, blue tits, robins, wood pigeons, wrens, jackdaws and swifts flying overhead. At this time of years, many birds are making nests and raising their chicks. Be respectful around them and look out for baby birds that have fallen from their nests. What can you do to help them? Usually best to leave them alone but if you are worried ask an adult.

