



Sacred Heart - Growing Outside

Wednesday 23rd June 2022

Weather: Hot and sunny

Growing Outside

Children:
Year 2

Homes for Nature

Today in *Growing Outside*, we were thinking about homes for nature and why they are so important. This fitted in very well with Year 2's Science as they are learning all about habitats and were able to explain to me what a habitat is.

We began by imagining we'd travelled back in time, to guess what might have been in the area before the school, hospital, tram line and houses were built. The children had some great ideas. They thought that there would be lots of green space, farmland, trees, flowers, animals and insects. So, what happens to minibeasts and other creatures when buildings are put up in their habitat? The children predicted that they might die or have to find somewhere new to live. This is a big problem when more and more buildings have to be built in an area for houses, schools, shops and offices for example.

We can all do our little bit to encourage minibeasts, wildlife and small creatures into our spaces by giving them back the sorts of habitats they need in order to live. We looked together at the nature scorecard to get an idea of the sorts of habitats we were looking out for - things that people had done or put into place to attract them.

Some 'homes' were very easy to spot. In fact, we didn't even need to do any walking to spot most of the mature trees because we were sitting under them! Trees are important

Homes for nature scorecard

Log pile ★ Score 6	Stone pile ■ Score 5	Dead wood ● Score 8	Wildlife stack ▲ Score 8	Insect Home ◆ Score 5
Beetle basket ⬠ Score 6	Wildflowers ★ Score 9	Plants in pots ■ Score 5	Flowerbed ● Score 7	Vegetable garden ▲ Score 4
Pond ◆ Score 10	Compost bin ● Score 7	Young trees ★ Score 7	Mature trees ■ Score 10	Beech ● Score 9
Hedge ▲ Score 10	Long grass ◆ Score 7	Short grass ⬠ Score 4	Bird box ★ Score 9	Bat box ■ Score 9
Bird bath ● Score 8	Bird feeders ▲ Score 8	Bird table ◆ Score 8	Hedgehog house ▲ Score 4	



habitats for so many creatures: spiders, caterpillars, birds, squirrels and bees. We talked about the difference between mature and young trees. I was really impressed that the children were able to find them for me. Lots of the children were taller than some of the young trees that are growing on the field.

The compost bins were easy to spot as they're right next to the vegetable garden. There is also one near the playground. There will be

lots of worms, slugs and woodlice living in here! We were happy to see so much long grass near them.

The brightly coloured bedding plants that were planted up by the children are doing a great job of attracting bees and butterflies and the vegetables are coming along well. There will be ladybirds



and bees visiting here too, but hopefully no snails and slugs! Did you know that we can find habitats underneath plastic pots? We moved a few of the pots with our bedding plants in them and spotted beetles, worms, slugs, spiders, ants and snails!



There is plenty of short grass on the large field and a large area of long grass all the way around it. Although it can look a little messy, it's important to leave long grass for things like butterflies, bees, dragonflies, field mice and small birds. There are also plenty of hedges for small birds to shelter in as well as spiders. The bees were enjoying collecting pollen from one of them as it was covered in purple/blue flowers.



The children enjoyed making their way into the wild part of the school field in search of what was lurking under the pile of logs! When a log was lifted away, there were woodlice, slugs, beetles, a spider and little eggs. We were careful to place the log back in the same place so that the creatures were sheltered again.

We were able to see that Sacred Heart is doing an outstanding job of making sure that not only are there are lots of different types of habitats at school, but they are also spread across the school grounds. Well done Year 2, you were brilliant this afternoon.

Mrs Grainger