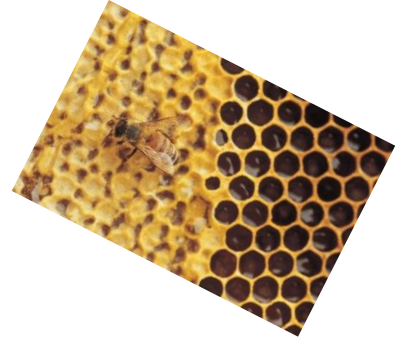


WORLD BEE DAY



On Saturday 20th May it is World Bee Day! The purpose of World Bee Day is to acknowledge the role of bees and other pollinators for the ecosystem. The world would be a much different place if bees didn't exist and it is important to think about the preservation of honeybees and other pollinators.

World Bee Day

World Bee Day is celebrated on 20th May, on the birthday of Anton Janša, a pioneer of beekeeping. It is a day for people to consider the importance of bees and how we can help to protect them.

Bees' Importance

Bees serve an important role as pollinators of flowers and crops. Around three quarters of the world's leading crops rely on animal pollination, along with 90% of wild plants. Consequently, approximately one third of the food we consume is reliant on pollinators like bees.

Threats

Around 13 species of bee have already become extinct in the UK and a further 35 species face the threat of extinction. The main threats to bees include:

- Intensive farming** - less farmland is being used for wildflower meadows while farmers are also using chemicals called pesticides, which can be lethal for bees, to protect their crops.
- Climate change** - as winters get milder, some plants and trees may bloom or blossom earlier in the year before bees are fully active, which can prevent plants and trees from being pollinated and prevent bees from getting enough food.
- Habitat loss** - bees are losing further habitat spots through urban development and the maintenance of natural wildflower spots like grass verges.

Help the Bees

- Grow your own bee-friendly plants.
- Encourage your local council to create wildflower meadows and reduce the maintenance of natural wildflower spots like grass verges.
- Let your garden grow wild during May, the busiest month for bees. Avoid mowing your lawn or trimming hedges to allow bees the chance to flourish.



I would love to see some home learning that you may carry out all to do with World Bee Day (see below for some ideas). Please send any work to zoe.griffiths@st-nicholas.staffs.sch.uk.

Many thanks for your support.
Miss Griffiths and the Eco Team.

How to help preserve bees:

- Make and set up a farm for bees and other pollinators in your home garden.
- Use pesticides that do not harm bees, and spray them in windless weather, either early in the morning or late at night.
- Plant bee-friendly shrubs or flowers in your garden.
- Chose several colours of flowers. Bees have good colour vision to help them find flowers and the nectar and pollen they offer. Flower colours that particularly attract bees are blue, purple, violet, white, and yellow.
- Have a diversity of plants flowering all season. This will support a range of bee species that fly at different times of the year.
- Buy honey and other hive products locally.
- Support a beekeeping/environmental charity.

Home Challenges

Some ideas include:

- ❖ Researching the different types of Bee and making a fact-file on them.
- ❖ Researching the role of the bee and the importance of helping to save bees – maybe you could write a report/record a news report on bees/create a poster?
- ❖ Planting some bee-friendly plants in your garden.
- ❖ Finding out how honey is made.
- ❖ Bee crafts – there are lots of ideas on Pinterest!
- ❖ Create your own wordsearch/crossword using key words related to bees.
- ❖ Make your own bee hotel.

