

Year 4 took Science outside to study habitats

When we came to Year 4 in September we started our Science topic on habitats and it was really fun! We have studied our school habitat and we have made lots of things. We even went on a visit to Fairhaven Lake.

We entered the RSPB Wildlife Challenge and we started with the Bronze Award and we are trying to get the Silver one now. Here's what we did on the bronze award.

At Fairhaven Lake we did mud dipping, feeding the birds and litter picking as well as the nature scorecard.

BRONZE

Food and water for wildlife

We made bird kebabs. A bird kebab is a metal wire with cheese, bread, apple and sultanas. We also put chunks of sunflower heads that someone brought in. Our bird kebabs are good because they give the birds energy in winter. The apple and sultanas give sugar and the cheese is high in energy because of all the fat.



We hung them in the trees all around our playground and the field. They have attracted lots of birds and squirrels! We can watch them from our classroom windows.

Next we made fat balls using fir cones. The fat ball is very good for the birds over the winter to fill their stomachs so they don't have to go out and it keeps their energy level high. The seeds we used are very healthy for them.



We also made apples with sunflower seeds pushed in and twigs for the birds to perch on while they eat.



Habitat Heaps

We made log piles and piles of pebbles to provide homes for different minibeasts.



Habitat Explorers

We went around the school and tried to find items to tick off on the scorecard. We found different habitats like trees, hedges, log piles and bird boxes and counted up the score after. (While we were out a man, who is a neighbour of school, gave us an old bird box that he didn't need anymore.) We also did the same on our school trip to Fairhaven Lake and then we compared the scores.

(Fairhaven Lake got a slightly higher score because our bird boxes weren't up then and we didn't have many flowers.)

Homes for nature scorecard

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

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Spread the word

For homework we made posters about helping the environment and climate change. Some people did posters or videos or PowerPoints. Joel made a great video with ideas about how we can all help the environment and he came first in Cherry Class.



Say NO to the MOW

There are hardly any creatures and flowers in mowed grass. If you don't mow the lawn then there will be lots of flowers which will attract many different pollinators and insects.

#NO MOW MAY

Lock up your lawnmower in May and let the wildflowers in your lawn bloom, providing a feast of nectar for our pollinators.

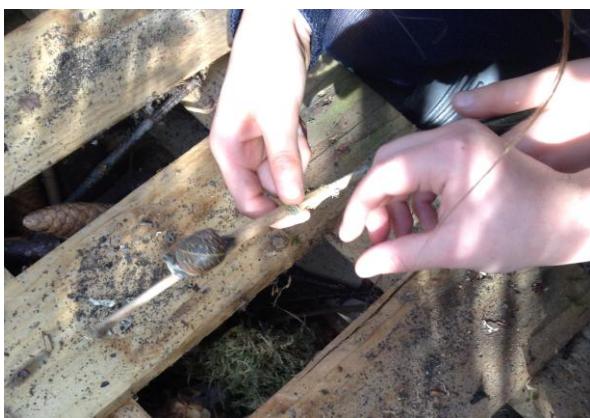
Long grass creates a mini jungle for creatures such as grasshoppers, caterpillars and many other invertebrates.

Wildflowers will grow such as daisies, clover, dandelions and buttercups.

You could sow wildflower seeds such as

We also did jobs to help the environment and we planted flowers and did lots of things to help animals and bugs.

We also had a **minibeast safari**, where we searched in pairs for different invertebrates in our school grounds and we used magnifiers to **look closer** at the creatures and leaves and bark. So that was our 6 activities for the bronze award.





SILVER

Homes for amphibians

Me and Mo dug a big hole in the grass with a spade and then we filled it with stones and logs. We had two big tubes for frogs and toads to get in to hibernate over the winter. We put planks of wood across the top and then we covered it with sticks and leaves and soil so it was hidden.



Weather wizard

We have done our Science lessons in all sorts of weather and we thought about how it makes us feel.

Minibeast homes

We made some new bug hotels for animals and little bugs using logs, twigs and lots ore. We only used natural materials. We used some new pallets and we took some things from the old bug hotels which had got a bit messy. The bug hotels are all over by the pond in our special nature area.



Homes for mammals

We made hedgehog houses with cardboard boxes, bin bags, stones and wood. First we had to cut a door out of the box then we covered it with a large bin bag to make it waterproof. We put dry leaves and shredded paper inside and we covered the top with twigs and leaves to hide it. Me and my friends thought it was fun.

Homes for birds

My table made a bird box with Mr Duerden. We hope that we will be able to get them up in the trees soon. The birds like to look for a home in autumn and they might come back and build their nests in them in the spring.



Mud dipping



We went mud dipping at Fairhaven Lake. We had to wear our waterproofs and wellies. We went in the mud with special equipment. We used sieves, to get some mud and then rinse it in sea water puddles so that we could see the animals that were left. We explored them on the tray. We saw lots of new creatures.



We saw the fish eggs and crabs and we saw the way they go down to hide from the birds. The birds stick their beaks in the sand to eat the creatures. We also played a game about the birds getting as much energy as possible.