



Activities at Home

Project: 'Wild and Wonderful'

Dear Parents,

The activity for week: 8 beginning: 26th February 2024 is Wonderful Wildflowers

The activity we will be covering involves:

- Learning the important role that wildflowers play in our eco system
- Using pressed flowers to create our own wildflower art work
- Using soil and seeds to create a 'wildflower bomb' that we can throw in our gardens or other green spaces to grow more wildflowers and support the wildlife that depends on them

Our activity includes:

- We will begin by reading the story *The Tiny Seed*, talking about the perfect conditions for a flower to grow. After the story, we will discuss why flowers are so important, focusing on how animals such as bees and butterflies depend on them. We will also discuss the important role that bees play as pollinators and touch on some of the food that could not grow without the bees such as tomatoes. We will reinforce this point by watching the CBeebies clip 'Why are Bees so Important?' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LmBUq103u-M> We will also discuss how native wildflower populations have declined over the past 100 years and the detrimental impact that this is having on our wildlife. The children will be invited to think of things that we can do to help wildflower populations recover; such as not picking lots of flowers when we are out, being careful not to tread on flowers when we are walking in nature and planting wildflowers.
 - The children will then split into two groups; Group 1 will combine soil, water and wildflower seeds to make their own 'wildflower bombs' to take home with them and plant themselves. Group 2 will use pressed wildflowers to create their own wildflower craft. The groups will then swap over, so both groups can have a go at the activities.
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You might wish to help your child to explore this topic at home or when you are out and about. Please feel free to approach the teachers for further explanations.

Our suggested activities are:

- There are many National Trust parks and properties, as well as other green spaces, around London and the suburbs-Kew Gardens or Morden Hall Park are two examples in easy reach of us, with Osterley Park, Wisley Gardens or Ham House are also just a short distance away. Consider visiting gardens and outdoor spaces and encouraging a respectful attitude towards nature and the role it plays; try teaching the National Trust mantra of, 'Take nothing but photos, leave nothing but footprints'
- Try planting your own bee/butterfly attracting plants at home-when they are in bloom, children will love watching the insects going busily about their business!



The Big Question:

Ask your child:

If you were a bee, which kind of flower do you think you would like to collect pollen from the most? Why?