

Friends of the Honey Bee Newsletter

Vol. 2 Autumn Term 2023



Hello and Welcome

Welcome back!

Are you all excited to be back after the summer? Are you looking forward to learning more about our amazing pollinators this term?

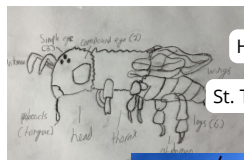
So many of you have sent in wonderful updates and photos of your projects and activities last term and it's great to be sharing them in this newsletter. It's been a real squeeze to fit them in



You've been busy planting, building, painting, drawing, calculating, photographing, writing and so much more! See the next page for all the great updates you've shared with us. And remember to keep sending in more of your incredible stories to keep inspiring everyone with great ideas for what to do next!



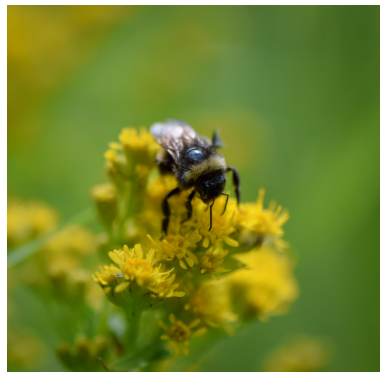
Planting seed bombs at Auchengray Primary



Honey bee drawing sent in by St. Thomas More Primary



Brushwood Junior pupils made Origami bees

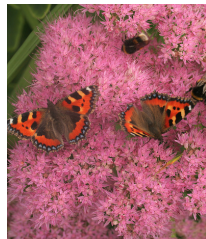


September to December

As summer disappears and autumn turns into winter the weather gets colder and bees become less active.

During September and October honey bees and other insects are preparing for winter. In gardens, we can still see forager bees on late-flowering plants, like **sedum**, **goldenrod**, **flowering ivy** and **salvia**.

Here's a link for ideas to help with ideas for autumn planting - <https://www.bbka.org.uk/blog/autumn-planting-for-bees>



How can we help?



winter honeysuckle

Most insect pollinators hibernate but some emerge from hibernation early in mild winters: **Buff-tailed bumblebee queens** will sometimes start nesting in autumn - instead of hibernating, they establish a 'winter colony'.

How can you help? Try to plant at least two nectar or pollen-rich plants to flower during winter. Plants like **winter honeysuckle** and **winter clematis** will be perfect.

winter clematis



WATCH OUT!

ASIAN HORNET
ALERT

See it! Snap it! Send it!

The Asian Hornet is BAD NEWS for pollinators and we urgently need your help.

We've added a special Asian Hornet Bulletin this term, to help you **identify this pollinator predator!**

Friends of the Honey Bee Updates



And Inspirations

FOHB family

- ~ Arc School Ansley ~
- ~ Auchengray Primary ~
- ~ Brushwood Junior ~
- ~ Ormiston Endeavour Academy ~
- ~ St. Austin's Catholic Primary ~
- ~ St. Thomas More Catholic Primary ~
- ~ Sticklands C of E ~

~ St. Thomas More Primary ~

There are lots of different spaces for pollinators to visit and inhabit at St. Thomas More Primary, from planters around the school garden and their forest school, to a wonderful wild garden! Students studied the lifecycle and anatomy of honey bees, compared independent beekeepers' honey with supermarket honey and worked on persuasive writing pieces about the importance of pollinators.

One pupil at St. Thomas More combined studying plants for pollinators with photography.



~ Sticklands Cof E ~

Sticklands pupils have been learning how to keep bees. They began with theory lessons in the classroom, learning about safety, the importance of pollinators, names for parts of a bee, and how a hive works. Later they made frames, designed labels and posters and made business plans for selling honey. In Year 2, children made models of bees and wrote short stories.

Designs by pupils at Sticklands School aimed to persuade customers to buy real honey.



~ Arc School Ansley ~

Pupils at Arc School Ansley made a FOHB application with a difference - they gave a wonderful video presentation in person to showcase all their projects and it was an amazing experience. As well as hearing their experiences first-hand, it was lovely to see their smiles when they found out they were a 'Friends of the Honey Bee' school.

New bees arriving at Arc School Ansley



Auchengray pupils are an inspiration, working hard in school and in their community.



~ Auchengray Primary ~

Things are buzzing in this primary school in South Lanarkshire! Seed bombs, bug hotels, planting projects (lots of them!) and visiting the Royal Highland Show, to name just a few. They also worked hard to hold events in their school and community to tell people about how they are *making room for bees*.

~ Brushwood Junior School ~

Brushwood pupils have been busy too. As well as this bee hotel, their Gardening Club sowed a small wild flower area on the vegetable patch, another student made brood frames for the bees (learning lots of facts at the same time!) and the Eco club made the wonderful origami bees on page one.

Brushwood's bee hotel was a hit with their pollinators



Ormiston Endeavour recycled an old microwave to create a fantastic new bug hotel



~ Ormiston Endeavour Academy ~

At Ormiston Endeavour, students created a beautiful Sensory Garden, with fragrant flowers, delicious vegetables and even a toad-friendly pond! Using a mix of recycled pots, raised planters and beds, they have worked to encourage lots of pollinators to their garden. Their up-cycled bug hotel, made from an old microwave is a great way to create a new habitat from old rubbish.

~ St Austin's Primary ~

Inspired by a Climate Summit in 2021, children at St. Austin's were soon motivated to create their own Eco team. Now they have regular Spring Flower Walks to monitor plants in their school garden, and planted pollinator patches and tubs. They release butterflies and work with a local community charity to help residents grow their own food. And they keep a colony of bees too!

Spring Pollinator Flower Walks at St. Austin's



ASIAN HORNET ALERT

SEE IT!



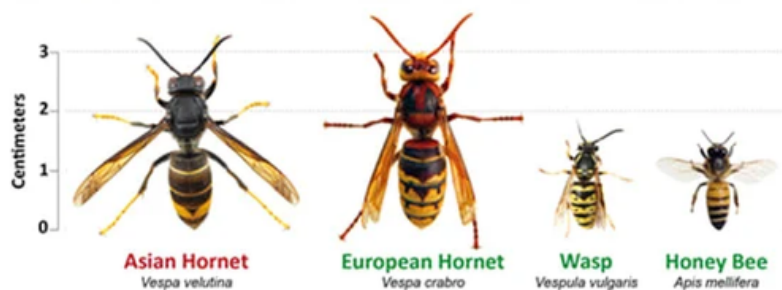
SNAP IT!



SEND IT!



Think you've seen an Asian Hornet? Report it!



Asian Hornet
(*Vespa velutina*)
Native to: **Asia**

Impact: Highly effective **predator of insects**, including honey bees and other beneficial species; can cause significant losses to bee colonies and other native species.

GB status: Sightings in UK since 2016: In 2023 there have been a staggering **58 nests found (27 in September)**;

Find the latest information on Defra's [Asian Hornet news page](#) or the BBKA website for information on [Asian Hornet Identification](#).

What to do: It is important to report any suspected sightings of this species as soon as possible. Vigilance is now required in all parts of England and Wales, especially around major ports. Asian hornets are **active between April and November, with peak activity in August/September**. They are inactive over the winter but reappear in the spring!

Ideally sightings should be sent in via the links below:

Asian Hornet Watch app for iPhone ([external link](#))

Asian Hornet Watch app for android ([external link](#))

Online recording form ([external link](#)) Please send a photograph and location details.

Do not under any circumstances disturb or provoke an active hornets' nest.

Useful resources: [BBKA free resource page](#)

Further information on the Asian Hornet : [National Bee Unit](#); ID Sheet ([PDF](#)) (A4 [Poster](#))

Factsheet ([page](#)) with leaflets, guides and videos.