

## St Mary's Eco-News

June 2024



Welcome Back!



Welcome back to the swifts, who have returned to Sheffield after spending the winter months in Africa. Many thanks to Aimee Ambrose for delivering an assembly on these beautiful, but sadly endangered, birds. If you see a swift that needs rescuing, you can contact Sheffield Swift Network on 07850 799891 or email

[sheffieldswiftnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:sheffieldswiftnetwork@gmail.com)

To celebrate the return of the swifts, children can test their knowledge on the following questions. Answers to Mme Roux by Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June for the chance to win a prize.

Q1 - What do swifts eat?

- a) Flying insects
- b) Berries
- c) Seeds

Q2 - Where do swifts spend the winter?

- a) Lapland
- b) Southern Africa
- c) Tenerife

Q3 - Where do swifts nest?

- a) In trees
- b) In walls
- c) On the ground

Q4 - How many miles can swifts fly each year?

- a) 500
- b) 8,000
- c) 250,000



## Active Travel

### Most active classes in May

1<sup>st</sup>: Y3 (77% active journeys)

2<sup>nd</sup>: Y2 (76% active journeys)

3<sup>rd</sup>: FS2 (74% active journeys)

## School garden

The children from eco-club are taking part in a study led by the University of Southampton. We have received seeds from six legume plants. Some are adapted to the UK (broad beans, dwarf beans and peas), some will possibly be able to grow in a warm year (chickpeas and lentils) and some are less likely to grow as they are adapted to hot, dry places (lablab). The project is looking at identifying crops most resistant to climate-change. So far, all have germinated apart from the chickpeas, and we are especially excited about the lablab beans!



Lablab seeds

### Biodiversity survey

The Y3 class carried out a biodiversity survey in the KS2 yard and checked every nook and cranny of the playground. They discovered all sorts of bugs and creepy crawlies: woodlice, snails, slugs, spiders, centipedes... and talked about ways that we could improve biodiversity on the school site and take better care of the plants and animals.



Big shout-out to eco-heroes Faith and Caleb who were spotted litter-picking out in the community. Great work!



Take part for 30 minutes and discover the wildlife on your doorstep

# Great Yorkshire Creature Count is back!



**Yorkshire Wildlife Trust**

**SATURDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> – SUNDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2024**

Sign up at [ywt.org.uk/GYCC](http://ywt.org.uk/GYCC)

If you have been inspired by the Y3 biodiversity survey, you may wish to take part in the Great Yorkshire Creature Count! Register online for a downloadable checklist: [ywt.org.uk/GYCC](http://ywt.org.uk/GYCC)



Great Yorkshire Creature Count – Head outdoors into your local park, nature reserve, neighbourhood or your garden for just 30 minutes and then spot, count and record the wildlife that you find – **Submit your counts at [ywt.org.uk/submit-gycc-sightings](http://ywt.org.uk/submit-gycc-sightings)**




Large red damselfly, Aphid, Large white butterfly, Red admiral butterfly, Garden black ant, Garden snail, 7-spot ladybird, Red soldier beetle, Smooth newt, Robin, Field grasshopper, Grass snake, Common frog, Blue tit, Red kite, House sparrow, Goldfinch, Swift, Black-headed gull, Leopard slug, Hedgehog, Fox, Blackbird, Bat (pipistrelle)

**Yorkshire Wildlife Trust** **Team in the Wilder**

Make your outside space a certified haven for wildlife, with our **Wildlife Gardening Award**

Apply at [ywt.org.uk/Wildlife-Gardening-Award](http://ywt.org.uk/Wildlife-Gardening-Award)



Buff-tailed bumblebee, Brimstone moth, Worm, Common woodlouse, Zebra spider, Marmalade hoverfly



Submit your results!



**What else can you see?**

Use this space to note down any other creatures that you see or hear, or draw a picture of your favourite!




We'd love to see your checklists! Share them with us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.



## World Bee Day

Well done to Hazel (Y6) for producing a beautiful poster for World Bee Day!

**Bee Facts**

**Worker**      **Queen**

**How do bees collect pollen from flowers?**  
When a bee lands on a flower, it begins to suck up the nectar from inside the flower with its long snout, collecting pollen in so-called "pollen pouches" which are on its hind legs. Because the bee must go so far inside the flower to gather the nectar, tiny pollen particles stick to the bee's furry (but looks like smooth) body.

**How do bees make honey?**  
Honey bees collect nectar to create honey and store as food because it provides the energy for bees' flight, muscles and heating for the hive in the winter. Fortunately, honey bees will make more honey than the colony needs, so it is necessary for beekeepers to harvest the excess, which they bottle and send it to be sold.

**How do bees eat and drink?**  
While your sweet treats may be attractive to bees, most bees use pollen and nectar as a food source. Worker bees gather both pollen and nectar from flowers to feed to the larvae and other members of the colony. Nectar is a sweet fluid produced by flowers to attract bees and other animals.

**How do bees protect their queen from other bees?**  
Worker bees feed her continuously, dispose of her waste products and distribute her hormones around the hive to prevent the production of queen cells. The queen controls the population of the hive, laying fertilised female eggs or unfertilised male ones.

**When would bees sting you?**  
Bees are harmless insects unless they feel threatened. Bees use their stinger to defend themselves and protect their hive. A bee can sting you if you bother it by: Swatting at a bee or trying to catch one.

**Diagram Labels:** Head, Thorax, Abdomen, Antennae, Eye, Ocelli (3), Face, Cheek (Malar space), Tongue, Foreleg, Midleg, Hindleg, Stinger, Forewing, Hindwing, Tergites (T1-T6), Pollen basket (Corbicula)

## Better Points

If you are not yet signed up for Better Points and are looking for a way to help our streets become safer, cleaner and less congested, while also supporting local businesses and charities, you may wish to consider downloading the Better Points Sheffield app. You earn points for walking, wheeling, cycling and using public transport and these points can then be exchanged for drinks at over 20 cafés, for Sheffield gift cards or for High Street, supermarket and online shopping vouchers. You can also donate them to the Children's Hospital, St Luke's Hospice and other local charities. You can download the app from Google Play or the App store. Please enter the code **stmary** on registration (tap **Menu**, then **Add Code** if you are already signed up). See the website for more info: [sheffield.betterpoints.uk](http://sheffield.betterpoints.uk)



# WALKLEY HORTICULTURAL SHOW



**Saturday, 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024**

**St Mary's Church Hall, South Road S6 3RX**

Hall open to the public 10.00am to 2.00pm (Free Admission)

- ❖ Flowers, fruit, vegetables, produce and baking sections
- ❖ Junior section
- ❖ Games and competitions
- ❖ Homemade cakes and refreshments
- ❖ Stalls

For entry forms and more information contact [walkleyhortshow@gmail.com](mailto:walkleyhortshow@gmail.com)  
or find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/walkleyhortshow](https://www.facebook.com/walkleyhortshow)



A reminder to get growing if you wish to enter the Walkley Horticultural Show!

If you and/or your child have spotted some amazing wildlife or have done something to support the local environment and would like to share your news, please send an email to [sroux@sma.dsat.education](mailto:sroux@sma.dsat.education) (with or without photos)