

## Year 4 - Living things

**National curriculum objectives:**

***Recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways and explore and use classification keys to help group them.***

**Ideas of how to do this whilst on lock down:**

- If you have a garden, or when taking your daily walk, encourage your child to observe the different types of plants and trees that they see
- Talk about how they are the same and how are they different. You may want to consider leaf or petal shape, colour, size, where they are found etc.
- Take photos so you can continue to talk about them together when you return home.
- Use the internet or reference books and together try and identify the names of the plants or trees.
- Explore ways of grouping different plants into categories e.g. flowering plants (including grasses) and non-flowering plants, such as ferns and mosses.
- Have a mini-beast hunt in your garden or on your daily walk. Ask your child to complete a tally chart of what find. Consider how they can be grouped e.g. number of legs, colour, size, micro-habitat found in etc.
- Look at a range of animals and begin to put vertebrate animals into groups such as fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals; and invertebrates into snails and slugs, worms, spiders, and insects.

***Identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment and recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things.***

**Ideas of how to do this whilst on lock down:**

- Research the positive human impact on Spike Island or Wigg Island nature reserves and how this has benefitted the local wildlife.
- Research the negative effects of population and overdevelopment on our wildlife such as bees and butterflies.
- Write a persuasive letter to a housing developer to convince them to stop building new homes due to the effect it has on the population of bees and the long-term effect of this.

# Make your own nectar bar



No matter how big or small your space, there's lots you can do to help our insects!

## Window box nectar bar

- 1 You'll need a window box (or two if you've got space) with drainage holes.



- 2 Use peat-free compost in your window box.



- 3 Stock up on pollinator friendly plants that are suitable for window boxes. Choose from...



Lavender



Thyme



Sage



Early crocus



Agrimony



Rosemary

- 4 Water regularly over spring and summer!



## A garden border

- 1 Identify a strip of your garden border that you can keep just for pollinators.

- 2 Dig up any old roots to prepare your border.



- 3 Choose your pollinator friendly plants. We recommend:

Back of border



Foxglove



Vipers bugloss



Buddleia



Borage

Front of border



Oxeye daisy



Yarrow



Cowslip



Hellebore

- 4 If you have a fence, wall or tree stump grow ivy and honeysuckle against it! Ivy flowers in autumn so is a great source of nectar later in the year.



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### Challenge:

Find out about Spike Island Nature reserve in Widnes.

What species can be found there?

Produce an information leaflet to encourage families to visit.