SCIENCE WEEK 2022 SHOWCASE

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How many different species of animal do we have in our school grounds?

WOW! What a day we had!

Thank you to all those children, parents, aunties, uncles, grandparents, next door neighbours.....who came along. We counted 72 <u>families</u>, yes *families*, so that was a lot of people.

We were so lucky that we had sun shining on us all day and it meant that we could be outside and do all the activities that we had planned.

There was a great interest in the items displayed in the hall, where I was based - all our planning, equipment, predictions, results, log books, and drawings were there for everyone to see. Craig from Hampshire Wildlife put up a fantastic stall all about the job that they do, and I know there were quite a few that were chatting about joining. Everyone loved Craig's display of interesting fauna - the two favourites were the fox skulls and the Mermaid's Purse containing a shark's egg. The children were fascinated - and some a little worried too!











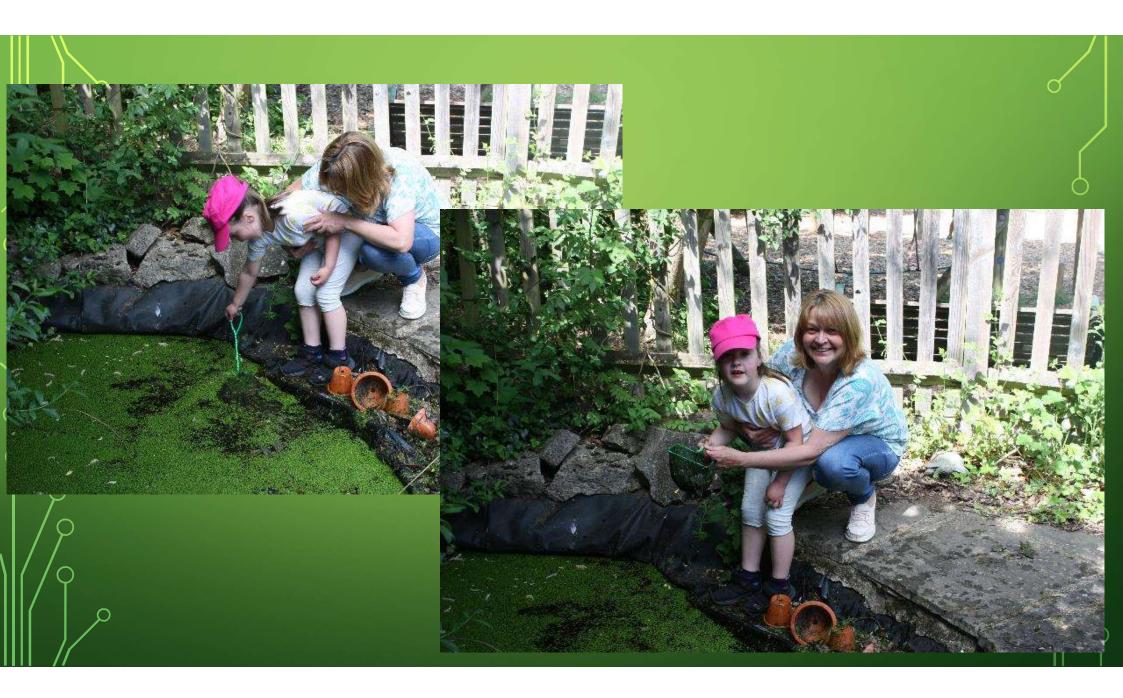






Mrs Haffenden and Mrs Bowes were outside, with another opportunity for the children to pond dip and to rummage around in some leaf-litter.

Who could resist?

















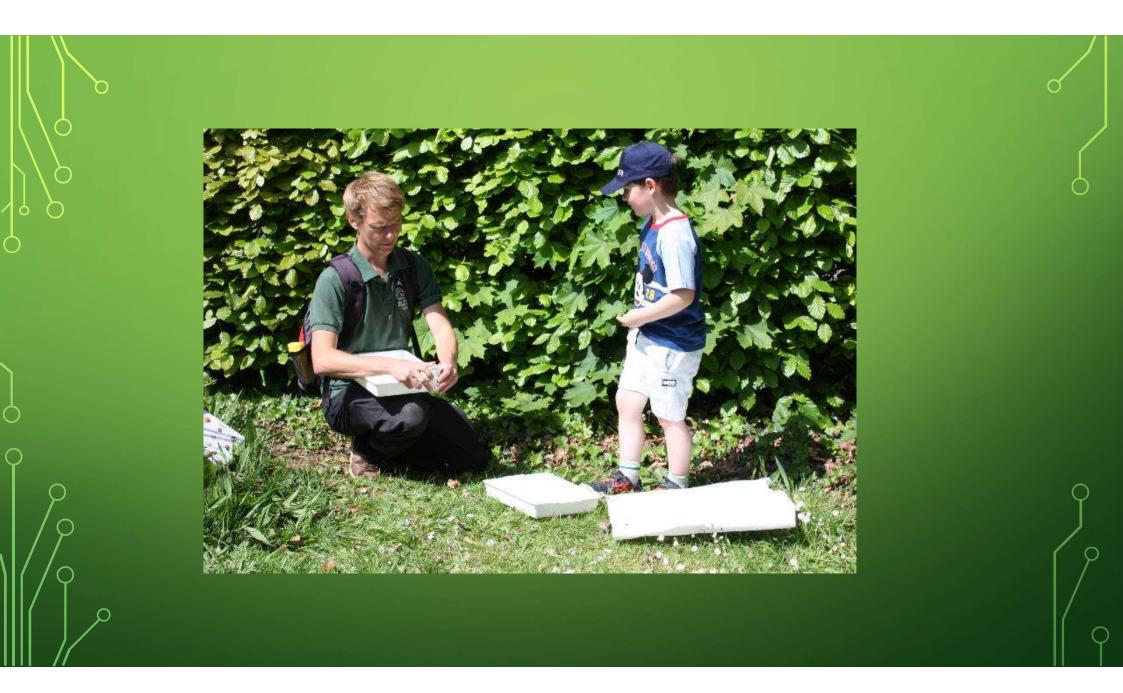
Mrs Bateman was overseeing a craft activity – making biodegradable seed pots and filling them with compost and wildflower seed.



Mrs Goodwin was busy drawing nature...at one point I think we lost her as she got carried away in the peace and quiet of the woods.



Craig was busy on an invertebrate hunt, and we definitely lost him in the long grass!





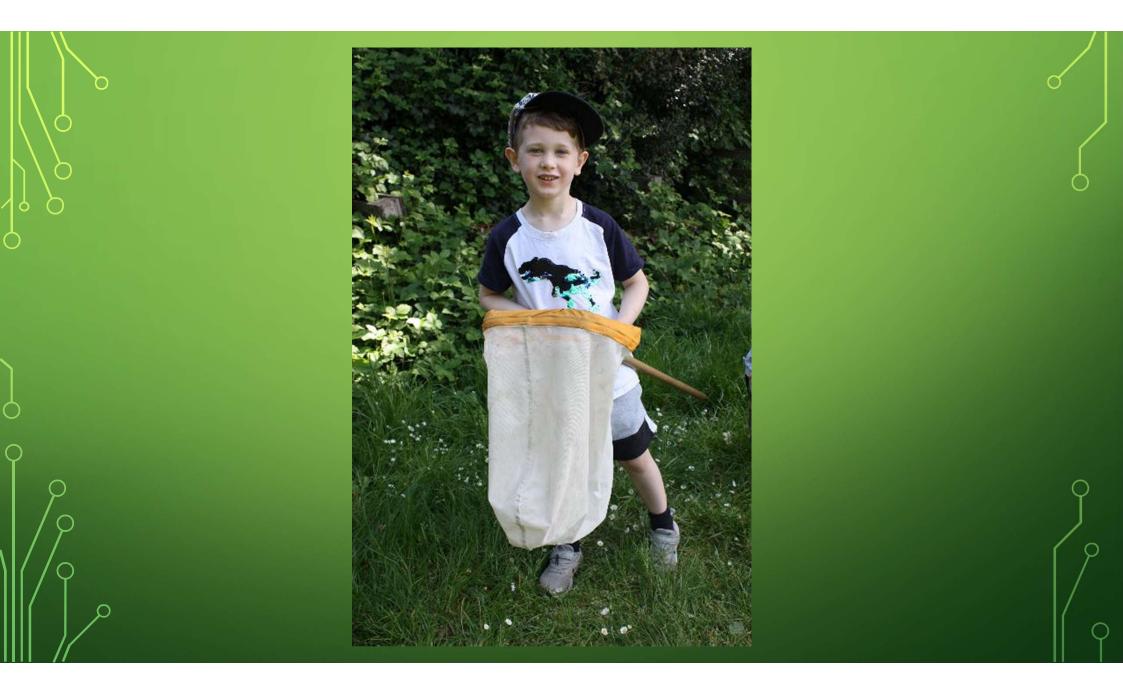












Miss Greenway was busy keeping everyone hydrated and supplying lovely biscuity treats.

Miss Bowyer was sneaking in and out taking photographs of the event and really capturing the feel of the day.

All in all, the day was amazing and I heard nothing but positive comments from everyone. It was lovely to see the children telling their parents about the things they had found, and the interaction between child and parent, chatting about wildlife.

I made lots of useful contacts, thinking ahead to what we do in the future. Thank you to everyone that I spoke to, whether you were an expect on beetles or you were just a beginner, you were all so excited and interested in the natural world.





Well, we certainly have a schoolful of keen naturalists, who want to look after the beautiful natural world around us.

At one point, my sister, Mrs Goodwin, told me that I needed to step outside to see what was going on. I can't tell you what a joy it was to see everyone being busy and getting excited about wildlife. It made me want to cry happy tears ©

So now, it's time to reveal how many different species of animal we found in our school grounds!

I wonder how it compares with your predictions at the beginning of the week?

A final drum roll please.....

<u>Bees and wasps</u> Bumble bees Honey Bees Solitary Bees Wasp Beetles Shiny blue Beetles* Beetles (golden) Ladybirds Lily Beetles Maybugs Shield Bugs (green) Vine Weevils

* The children referred to these as Blue Mint Beetles, but there are various blue beetles in the UK, and we need to investigate further Saturday14th May 2022ButterfliesMothsBrimstoneMoths (variouCabbage WhiteLight Brown A

<u>Moths</u> Moths (various) Light Brown Apple Moth (female)

Birds Blackbirds Blackcaps Blue tits Crows Crows Dunnocks Great tits Black-headed Gulls

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Magpies Pigeons Robins Sparrows Starlings

<u>Flies</u> Flies (various) Cranefly Greenflies Hoverflies Mosquitoes Snakeflies Pond creatures Caddisfly larvae Damselflies (various) Damselflies (red) Dragonflies Midge larvae Stonefly nymphs Rat-Tailed Maggots (Hoverfly) Tadpoles Whirligig beetles

Other Minibeasts Ants Caterpillars Centipedes Millipedes Slugs Snails Spiders Woodlice Worms

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<u>Mammals</u> Foxes Wood mice Shrews Squirrels

So that makes a grand total of 56 different species! Don't forget that this was just over one week in Summer. I wonder how many more different species we would find in autumn, winter and spring?

But what an achievement - weren't we amazing!

So what's next?

Following on from this, I will put together photographs from across the week and share them on the school website. I will also include the comments that were made by children and parents about the week.

I will also be looking again at all the data, and thinking about the future – how we can improve our school grounds even more, and when to have our next Science Week!

As a whole school, we would like to buy some more kit so that the children can carry on their learning in the future.

There is talk of our own wildlife camera, a birdbox with camera, our own sweep nets and pond-dipping nets, white trays, collecting pots with magnifying lids, more bird feeders, more wild flowers to attract pollinators...

If you enjoyed the day, or you would just like to contribute to our Team Wilder fund, please donate on-line.

Finally a BIG thank you to everyone for their help and support over this past week...

Our Super Pond-Dippers Mrs Haffenden and Mrs Bowes; our Photographer Mrs Bowyer; our Eco-Gardener Mrs Bateman; our resident Birdwoman and artist for the week, Mrs Goodwin; our Amazing Gardner Mrs Bruce who regularly comes in to keep everything under control; Craig Whitelock for all his advice, support and presence over the week; Mr Whittaker for putting together the spreadsheets; Mrs Attwood and Mrs Roylance for their whizzy computer skills; the whole staff of Parsonage Farm for getting onboard and embracing Science Week and finally, but most importantly, Miss Greenway for allowing this to happen and letting me have free rein on some wild and crazy ideas!

Mrs Whittaker 😊