

## The Meadow Class in the Summer Term 2018

Following the return from the Easter holidays, the children proudly presented their homework projects to parents at our achievement assembly. Projects ranged from home-made water clocks, to poems about the snow.

Preparations were made for the 'Bee project'. This was in response to a request to produce a display of children's work at the RHS flower show at Chatsworth. Bee hotels were made as part of technology; water colour paintings produced and extended information writing was done, about the importance of honey bees. This followed a visit from a beekeeper, where the children were given opportunities to try on a beekeeper's outfit and study different pollen colours.





The children, not only exhibited their work at the RHS show, but also at the local Arts' festival in Marston Montgomery Church.



Here is a piece of writing produced by one of the year 4 children:

### Busy Bees

Bees are a very important part of nature. If we didn't have bees then we wouldn't have honey and lots of our plants would die. If you are interested in bees read on. Many people hate bees because of their stings, but people should actually be grateful.

### The Queen bee

The queen bee is the largest bee, being 2 times bigger than a normal bee. She would lay 2000 eggs in the summer. That's more than her own body weight! In the hive, there are thousands of hone- bees buzzing about and it is hard to see which is the queen, so bee-keepers paint the queen bee's back a colour so she stands out. They change the colour each year. There are five different colours red, blue, green, yellow and white. The keeper would get a cup, scoop her up and paint her, then set her free. She can live for five years.

### Why do bees use hexagons?

Bees use hexagons because hexagons are a strong shape and they fit together. Bee's eggs are shaped as hexagons.

### Other bees

A male bee is called a drone. A worker bee can live for six weeks in the summer and six months in the winter. They die because their wings start to split. In the wild, bee-hives are often built in trees. A worker bee carries pollen on their back legs. They do not go back the way they came, they just go directly back to the hive. Male bees die because they have no purpose although, males do not have stings but workers do. In the hive at winter, there is generally about 10,000 bees. In the summer, there is generally about 50,000. They eat and smell honey for energy.

### About a bee

Bees have miniature brains about the size of a pinhead. They have two big eyes at the front of their head the shape of a hexagon and three other eyes on their head, one that can see through the clouds, one that acts like a compass and the other one is unknown. They have 4 wings, 6 legs and stripes. They also like flowers from trees. Bees can make different coloured honey by getting different coloured pollen. The most common colours are pale yellow, orange and black.

### Life cycle

The life cycle of a bee starts off as an egg the size of this. Yes, it is the size of a full stop. After the bee grows larger into a larva and looks like a maggot and then turns into a pupa which also looks like a maggot and then into a bee. There is also an infection called verroa. It is also called chalk brood. It kills eggs. In the wild there is a wax moth that will come into the hive and eat some wax and also leave behind a trail of silk, but it only eats dead wax so it's sort of self-cleaning.

### Illnesses

There is an illness called anaphylaxis. It means that the person who has it, is allergic to bee stings and some people have hay fever. Also diabetes is an illness where you can't have too much sugar and a lot of sugar is in honey.

### How they make honey

They put nectar into hexagons, and unlike people bees don't sleep, they will stay up all night fanning the nectar with their wings so that the water in the nectar evaporates and the nectar turns into honey. The bee-keeper would cut the tops of the honey combs, spin it in a centrifuge and filter it into jars.

Bees are really amazing and I hope you agree, with their interesting life style. I hope you have enjoyed reading this fun packed text.

By Jessica (Year 4)

After half term, the children were invited to go and see their work at the Chatsworth RHS flower show.



Thoughts then turned to our Summer production 'Greece Goes to Pieces'.

Our small class was extremely busy learning songs, making props as part of art work, and, learning their lines - in many cases, children had more than one role to learn. All the hard work paid off with two wonderful performances in front of parents and friends.

Our school council was busy organising two events: a pyjama day to raise funds for a local charity, 'Beau's Boots', and a cake sale to raise funds for play-ground equipment.



Two joint activity days were held in collaboration with Long Lane C of E primary: an enrichment day involving dance and geography, and a sports day.

Work continued with 'Healthy schools' input, whilst year 6 had the opportunity to attend a teambuilding activity with year 6 children from other schools, to aid transition.

The whole term culminated with a final leavers' assembly where year 6 children shared their memories with family and friends.