

# Friends of the Honey Bee Newsletter

Vol. 4 SummerTerm 2024



## Hello sunshine!

This year has seen so many new groups join our 'Friends of the Honey Bee' family!

It's very exciting to know that interest in the FOHB continues to grow. **Let's keep sharing the buzz!**



In this FOHB Newsletter, we share more ideas for projects you can try. Keep sending in news and updates; it's a great way to share who you are and what you're doing.

And 'thank you' to everyone who sent in ideas and pictures for this edition.

Please email your news, pictures and updates to - [schools.officer@bbka.org.uk](mailto:schools.officer@bbka.org.uk)

**Help protect our pollinators from the**

**Asian Hornet**

**Learn what the Asian Hornet looks like and if you see one please**

**report it**

**See page 3 for further information**



**See it! Snap it! Send it!**



Sunflowers are a favourite of bees and other pollinators

## April to July

**Spring has sprung and summer is on its way. All around us, nature is filled with sounds of insects busily building, burrowing, searching and harvesting.**

Different flowers produce different coloured pollens and attract different insects.

Which plants could you grow this term?

Have you tried growing **sunflowers**?

They don't produce much nectar but bees love them because they produce **LOTS** of pollen, which bees need to raise their brood! Perhaps you'd like to grow **bee balm**, although some people call it **bergamot**. It smells like a mix of mint and citrus and produces lots of nectar, which bees collect and turn into honey.

For more ideas about bee-friendly plants for summer months visit our [summer plants](#) webpage.



**Bee balm** (*Monarda didyma*) is another plant bees adore. It produces lots of **nectar** for pollinators!

## Seed in a Jar Summer Activity



Did you make the colourful cardboard insects last term? (The link is [here](#) if you missed it)

Now the weather is warmer, new life is bursting out all around. You can watch it too, right in front of you - with your own **seed in a jar** activity - growing seeds like nasturtiums, broad beans or runner beans. You will need: Kitchen paper and an empty glass jar or plastic cup; strips of cardboard and newspaper; scissors; water.

Choose a large seed, like a broad bean, runner bean or nasturtium. And wait for the miracle of nature to happen.

For more activity ideas, visit the [BBKA Activities page](#) [here](#)



## Welcome to new FOHB members

**Welcome to our newest members.**

We are so pleased you have joined us.

You can proudly tell everyone you are **Friends of the Honey Bee** - and all the wonderful things you are learning about bees and other insects.

We all care about the environment and our amazing pollinators.

Sharing our passion for the wonders of nature and helping to educate our friends, family and communities is an important job.

Together we **can** make a difference!

# Friends of the Honey Bee Updates



## And Inspirations

### ~ **Bees in the Curriculum** ~

If you are looking for new and interesting bee-based ideas for the classroom this term, try our Bees in the Curriculum pages, packed with free resources designed for **Key Stages 1 and 2**. Explore worksheets, quizzes, videos and many more useful resources covering Science, Environmental Science and Understanding the World.  
- [visit here to be inspired](#)



### ~ **World Bee Day** ~

**Saturday 20th May, will be the 5th World Bee Day.**

It is a day for raising awareness about the harmful effects of pesticides, climate change and habitat loss - and what we can do to reverse this.

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### **How can you celebrate World Bee Day 2024 in your school?**

If you're looking for ideas to bring the buzz of World Bee Day into your classroom, here are a few ideas:

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**Talk in assembly about pollination and how bees are useful to us for producing food.**

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Plant bee-friendly flowers in your school garden, such as lavender and lilacs.

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**Build a bee hotel in class with reeds or sticks.**

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Visit a local beekeeper to learn how honey is made.

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**Stage a honey tasting test in your class and try different varieties of honeys.**

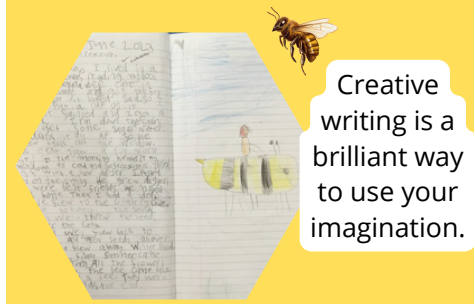
Stickland's Primary shared this clever idea for a **Bee-themed Story board**



### ~ **Bee-themed Story Board** ~

At Stickland's Primary creativity has been flowing! They sent pictures of their creative writing and a **Story Board** too. Story boards are a great way to combine art and writing to tell a story - a bit like making your own cartoon!

Create your own story boards and tell a tale using words and pictures. Will you write about your favourite insect or a secret garden? Let your imagination run wild.



Creative writing is a brilliant way to use your imagination.

The **first World Bee Day** was in 2018,

after a clever idea from people in Slovenia in 2017.

They chose 20th May to celebrate a famous beekeeper, Anton Jansa, born there in 1773.



Do you have any honey recipes to share with us, like Arc Ansley?

Send them in to [schools.officer@bbka.org.uk](mailto:schools.officer@bbka.org.uk)



# Asian Hornet

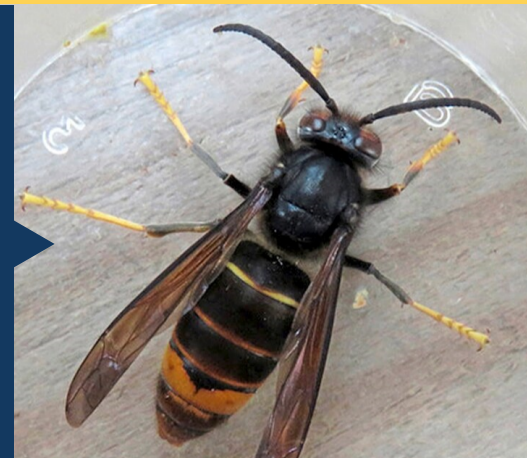
The Asian Hornet is a highly aggressive predator which poses a significant threat to honey bees and other pollinators in the UK.



## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Learn how to identify Asian Hornets  
Know how to report any sightings  
Help to spread the word - tell your  
family & friends

- Dark abdomen with wide orange stripe on 4th segment
- Yellow tips to legs
- Head black with orange face
- Thorax black & velvety



**TAKE A PHOTO IF IT IS SAFE TO DO SO**  
**REPORT VIA THE *ASIAN HORNET WATCH* APP**  
**OR BY EMAIL TO: *ALERTNONNATIVE@CEH.AC.UK***

**SEE IT! SNAP IT! SEND IT!**

