

Buzzing Visits from Our Beekeeper – Learning About the Secret Life of Bees

We were incredibly lucky to welcome our visiting **beekeeper**, who joins us every other year to give the children a fascinating insight into the hidden world of bees. These sessions are packed with excitement, hands-on experiences and rich scientific knowledge that bring our curriculum to life. From communication and pollination to honey production and hive life, the children are captivated from start to finish.

Exploring the Life of a Bee

The beekeeper introduces the class to the different types of bees within a hive and their roles. The children learn about:

- Worker bees and their daily tasks
- Drones and why they are important
- The Queen Bee, her role in laying eggs, and how the colony depends on her

Seeing real hive frames and learning about the structure of a colony help pupils understand life cycles, survival and animal behaviour - all key elements of the Science curriculum.

Meeting the Queen (Sort Of!)

Although the live bees do not come into school, the children get to examine bees in resin as well as sections of real hives, spot where the Queen Bee would live, and see examples of:

- honeycomb
- brood cells
- capped honey

The beekeeper explained how bees care for their young, showing clear connections to animal life cycles and how different species grow and develop.

The Waggle Dance – How Bees Communicate

One of the most memorable moments of the day is learning how bees “talk” to each other. The children love to discover that bees communicate using a special movement known as the waggle dance, which helps other bees find food sources.

The class had great fun learning their own version of the waggle dance, using it to “direct” their friends to imaginary flowers around the room. This makes scientific learning active, joyful and unforgettable.

Pollination in Action

The visits also deepen children’s understanding of pollination - a core part of our Science and Eco-School learning.

The beekeeper demonstrates how bees transfer pollen as they move from flower to flower, helping plants grow fruit and seeds. The children discuss:

- why bees are essential for healthy ecosystems
- what would happen if bees disappeared
- how we can protect bees in our school grounds and gardens

This supports their understanding of habitats, interdependence and caring for the natural world.

Tasting Honey and Honeycomb

A real treat for the children is the chance to taste different types of honey, as well as a small piece of natural honeycomb. This sensory experience sparked wonderful discussion about:

- how bees make honey
- why different honeys taste different
- the jobs of worker bees inside the hive

This hands-on experience helps pupils see a direct connection between the work of bees and the food we eat.

Trying on a Beekeeper’s Suit

The children have the opportunity to try on a real beekeeper’s suit, including the protective hat and veil. This practical moment supports their understanding of:

- how beekeepers work safely
- how humans care for and manage domesticated insect colonies
- the importance of equipment and protection when working with animals

The children love posing for photos and imagining themselves as future beekeepers!

🌱 Engagement, Behaviour & Impact

These sessions promote:

- exceptional curiosity and questioning
- excellent listening and behaviour
- deepening scientific understanding
- strong recall of key vocabulary
- increased awareness of environmental issues
- cross-curricular learning through science, sustainability, literacy and even dance!

The visit provided a valuable opportunity to reinforce our Eco-School ethos, encouraging children to respect wildlife and understand their role in protecting fragile ecosystems.

