



Hi all, summer is here and gardens and natural spaces have burst into colour. As flowers bloom, the pollinators, including bees and butterflies are out feeding on sugary nectar in the flowers while transferring pollen from one plant to another. They move pollen from the anther which

are the male parts of the flower to the stigma which is the female part of the flower. The plants eggs are then fertilised and they can reproduce.



A pollinator activity for your family or small group at school: Print off or draw some flower outlines on white paper. Place them around your outdoor space, ensuring they will not blow away. Choose some children to be bees or butterflies and give them a piece of cotton wool. The remaining players to be given different colours of outdoor chalk. Those with chalk must go around and colour in the flowers to represent the pollen. The bees and butterflies must visit each flower to collect the pollen by rubbing the chalk, while pretending to be bees and butterflies. After visiting many flowers the insects will be able to see the different colours of chalk building up on their cotton wool which demonstrates how the pollen is transferred from flower to flower, allowing the plants to reproduce.

Identifying different types of bees and butterflies:

There are more than 250 types of bees in the UK and 59 different types of butterfly. The woodland trust website is a great place to find out about many of our native species.



Attached are some butterfly and bee spotter sheets. Go for a walk outdoors and see which types of butterflies and bees you can spot. Look at their markings carefully and spend time just watching how they behave. Look carefully at their features. All insects will have 6 legs, 3 body parts and often have wings and antennae.

Which flowers do the pollinators seem to prefer? Is there a colour they visit most? Maybe you could plan an investigation to find out.



Remember bees don't really want to sting you, they only sting when they feel threatened.

Make a butterfly café: There are lots of different ways to make a butterfly café feeding station. It could simply be a dish placed outside with some sugary solution or slices of fruit. At Forest School we like to use tools so you could make a feeding station just like the one below we have made using wood, a hammer, nails and milk bottle tops. Have a go at making your own butterfly café and hanging it outside. Remember ask an adult to supervise you using tools if you choose to hammer.



What to feed the butterflies:

- Sugar and water solution
- Pieces of tinned fruit
- Pieces of fresh fruit – banana, kiwi, orange, grapefruit, strawberries or peaches

Make a puddling station to give the pollinators a drink:

It is important to make sure the pollinators have some water to drink in hot dry weather so they do not dehydrate. In a shallow dish or saucer place some stones for the insects to land on. Fill the dish with water. Keep topping up if the weather is dry.

