

REACHING OUT



We want to reach out!

As schools return, we look to support each school's efforts to get involved with the rich tapestry of culture and creativity within the borough. Tameside Cultural Services have been looking at how we can best use our years of experience and resources to support schools. We will link in with the Philosophy for Children, as well as the National Curriculum, the schools' recovery curriculum and the Five Ways to Wellbeing: Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning and Give.

Each month, we will share information relating to our education offer as well as giving further ideas and ways to engage with our offer in your classroom. There will be activities from each of the Cultural Services teams and we will take the opportunity to highlight one of our site based workshops as when we are able to, we cannot wait to welcome you back to our sites and great outdoors.

HABITATS AND LIVING THINGS

Led by one of our experienced Outdoor Education Team and based around Park Bridge, during this hands-on outdoor session we will discover how plants and animals have adapted to suit their environment. We will go pond dipping and bug hunting, using ID sheets and field study equipment.

The afternoon session will see us finishing with some creative teamwork.

culture
Tameside



BEE AT HOME

REACHING OUT

Unlike the familiar bumblebee and honeybee, most of our bees do not make colonies but are actually solitary. The female spends most of her life searching for suitable nesting sites. Some species will nest in holes in the ground, while others will look for old beetle holes or hollow stems in which to lay their eggs. If you can provide a suitable home, these bees will come to you.

Start by choosing a frame. You can buy or make a wooden frame, or use a tube open at both ends.

Thread through a length of garden string so you'll be able to hang up your bee hotel-then fill your frame. You can use hollow plant stems and bamboo canes that are empty and clean inside.

Alternatively you can use rolls of paper. Wrap sheet of paper around a pencil, making five layers in your roll so they are sturdy. You want the rolls to be about a centimetre in diameter, and you can hold them in place with a piece of tape so they don't unroll.

You can place some larger paper rolls inside your frame to make it easier to fill. Each child could fill a large paper roll, and then you can combine everyone's together to make a grand bee hotel.

Make your paper rolls slightly smaller than the length of your frame to give them protection from the rain.

You can also include other twigs, sticks, and straw to offer homes to other insects.



What happens next?

Watch as solitary bees investigate your finished bee hotel in the spring. With any luck, the females will lay their eggs. Each egg is left with a store of pollen for the grub to eat when it hatches. The egg is sealed up behind a plug of mud, in a 'cell'.



BEE FRIENDLY

People from across the borough are invited to help craft their own small bees that will be gathered together and made into a 'swarm installation' being displayed for the public, along with an amazing specially designed bee house, that will eventually be housed outside the Local Studies Library.

We'd love to see photos of your bee homes to add to our display.

To have a chat about how you can get involved contact:

Lesley Bardsley
(Outdoor Engagement Officer)

lesley.bardsley@tameside.gov.uk

