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Survey Report

Brampton Ellis CE (Aided) PS

A Healthy Biodiversity

Key Stage 1

Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Species and Habitats (see website) are in **bold** print and suggested nest boxes/feeding stations/ponds to be placed in the school grounds are in **red** print.

Dear Dawn,

Sorry that you were unable to be with us today. The presentation went well and the Y2 children were very responsive. Please say thank you to the person who showed us round the school grounds in order to facilitate this report.

The Main Staff Entrance

Robins, Jackdaws, Long Tailed Tits, Blue Tits, Great Tits and Goldfinches sang as we waited to be escorted round the grounds. In this area there are 4/5 Cherry Trees and one Ash Tree. Because the surrounding area seems to be rich with invertebrates we could install **6 Tree Sparrow boxes** and **3 Bat boxes** on these trees. **English Bluebells** could be planted underneath the trees and a small circle left uncut around each tree. Grass cutting and herbicide spraying could be stopped a metre to 50cm from the fence line to encourage **wild flowers** and **invertebrates** (mainly **Bees**). **Invertebrates** are the bedrock of a healthy biodiversity. The practice of spraying needs to be stopped as it serves no reasonable purpose and is significantly detrimental to a healthy biodiversity. There are already the beginnings of an insect 'hotel' on the South side of the entrance. Children could be encouraged to develop this with appropriate natural materials. Once the principle of encouraging a border of wild flowers has been agreed then **6 solitary Bee boxes** could be installed.

There is a buddleia next to the gate which needs trimming to encourage growth. This is great news for **butterflies**. In fact we saw a Speckled Wood, a Green Veined White and a Comma butterfly in this area! Ivy on walls and on one Cherry Tree will encourage a wide variety of **invertebrates**. The Apple tree to the north of this area is providing food for Blackbirds and Thrushes. Another insect 'hotel' could be developed in one corner of this area.

The Ramp/Wild Area.

This is a small but excellent area for invertebrates and so we could install **2 Tree Sparrow boxes** here.

The School Building

A House Sparrow colony nest box could be placed on the North/East side of the stone school building. These, previously common birds are now red listed by RSPB and are in need of protection. Consideration could be give to the installation of **3 Bat boxes** on this building.

The Garden area is being well used for herbs, vegetables etc and are a good place for invertebrates.

A Tree Sparrow box could be placed on the Sycamore in the nursery area.

Hedgehogs have declined in numbers from 30 million in the 1950s to 1 million today. They are in danger of extinction and many of our schools are thinking of running local community campaigns to help this iconic British species. They are largely a suburban species and school grounds can be ideal places for them to forage and hibernate. However the fencing, walling and tarmacing of both school grounds and nearby gardens is not helpful to a creature that can travel 2kms per night. Consideration could be given to creating some spaces under the fence line so that **Hedgehogs** can travel freely to new feeding areas. At the moment it is not appropriate to place **Hedgehog** boxes in the school grounds.

The thick bushes around the main playground would provide a good place for **4 solitary Bee boxes**.

We would provide all new nest boxes free of charge, present them at a whole school assembly, help with their installation, set up a mapping and recording system and follow up with nest box cleaning and recording nest box contents in the Autumn. All activities will involve children and the school community. Please share this report with appropriate staff, governors and children and let us know whether you wish us to proceed.

Maintaining a healthy biodiversity is probably the most important challenge human beings will need to face in the future.

We look forward to making a date to present and install nest boxes at your school.

Kind regards,
Colin Graham.
Project Leader
Biodiversity in Schools