



# The Willows Primary School

## Growing Outside

Wednesday 23rd June 2021.

Weather: Dull and raining.

## **Growing Outside**

Children: Year 6

### Pest and Diseases.

Today at *Growing Outside* we were thinking about pests in the garden. The children had some great ideas of what were pests and why.



**Slugs and Snails:** They eat our crops, fruits and vegetables.

**Squirrels:** They dig up the flower bulbs, they can rip open compost bags. Today I found spring onions they had pulled out of the plant pots. They bury monkey nuts in everything. The children suggested building a cage to protect the plants from the squirrels. We could also use nets to cover the pots and vegetable beds.

**Birds:** Birds can be both a pest and a help. They can eat your fruit and berries. However they also eat some pests from the garden, such as slugs and snails. Some birds also drink nectar and help to pollinate flowers.

**Aphids:** These are small green bugs that will cover the stems of plants and eat flowers. They seem to quite like the roses in my garden at home.



Pests aren't just creatures either. Plants can be pests too. Weeds such as bindweed can grow all over your garden and strangle your plants.

Plants can also get diseases. Such as POWDERY MILDEW. We found this on the lemon balm in the garden. This mildew covers the leaves of

plants and stops them absorbing sunlight and making food. Eventually killing them. Removing the plant or spraying plants with a mixture of milk and water can supposedly help.





Today we were concentrating on slugs. We went on a slug hunt, and to see what else we could find. The children found slugs hiding under plant pots. We found lots of snails hiding under the rims of the same pots. I unfortunately found **BLACKFLIES** all over the broad beans. They are a type of aphid and are also known as bean fly.

We found some tiny frogs and one a little larger near the compost bins. We had to be very careful not to stand on any!!

It has been fantastic to see the frogspawn grow and eventually become frogs.



Next the children made slug traps. They were making humane traps. Lots of the children knew if we killed all the slugs, we could take a source of food for the birds.

These traps were designed to trap the slugs and they can be removed and put far away from the quad. They used a variety of bottles and margarine tubs. The children cut holes into the bottles or tubs. They made sure the holes were big enough for slugs to pass through.



To entice the slugs in to the traps they put either undiluted cordial in them, slices of satsuma that were turning bad and a mix made from sugar, water, flour and yeast. The children buried the traps so the holes were level with the ground and a slug could easily get in.

I wonder if they will catch many traps.

Wow what a fantastic day in the garden I wonder how many slugs they will trap?

Good luck year 6 moving up to high school!!

Dawn.