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Birley Spa Primary Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy

# Newsletter

11<sup>th</sup> February 2022



Dear parents and carers,

We'd like to start by saying a huge well done to all the children and staff during what has been a very challenging half term. One of our key values at school is 'resilience' and we have been so impressed with the way we have all, as a school community, worked together to be extra resilient this half term. We are all really proud of the children at Birley Spa and it has been wonderful to see them attending booster groups before and after school. This is a key part of our catch-up plans to ensure that gaps in learning are plugged and that children make accelerated progress this academic year. Thank you to all parents for supporting us with this and accommodating changes to pick up/drop off times – this is really appreciated. In addition, we know that further home learning challenges and activities are being set for children and we will continue to use and further refine our fantastic remote learning platforms (Tapestry and Showbie Pro Plus) in the coming months. After the half term break, we have lots to look forward to including our new pupil (and staff!) wellbeing events. These are monthly events that will take place during the remainder of this academic year for pupils to engage in and have fun! Further details regarding our first event 'Cinema Night' are provided in this newsletter.

We have finished the term on super high by having a cake or bun to celebrate with one of our Year 3 pupils James, who has officially come to the end of his treatment for leukemia. Congratulations James, this is amazing news!

Finally, we would like to wish everyone a wonderful and enjoyable half term break and look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs. Pemberton, Mr. Smith and Mr. Hogben

## World Book Day

World Book Day is Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, further information will be shared after half-term about how we will be celebrating the wonderful day.

## Phonics Funding

We are delighted to inform you that we have managed to secure some additional funding for phonics resources, this will allow us to expand our existing resources within school.

## Parental Survey

As part of our continued commitment to our pupils and families, and helping us on our school improvement journey, if you have not already done so, can you please take 5 minutes to complete the attached survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/QPT2T2G>

## Scholastic Book Fair

We are happy to announce that the Scholastic book fair will be returning to school! The Book Fair will be arriving in school on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022, with hundreds of new children's books to browse and buy.

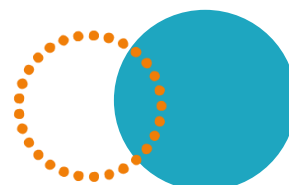
There are over 200 titles for you and your child to choose from, and with prices starting from only £2.99, there's sure to be a book for everyone. If you can't make it to our Book Fair, try our discounted Gift Vouchers available at [www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/parents](http://www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/parents). They're a great way to ensure your child doesn't miss out. Don't forget that every book you buy can help to get FREE BOOKS for our school library! Further details will follow nearer the time.

## Cinema Night

We are delighted to inform you that the first of our wellbeing events 'Cinema Night' has been arranged for after half term.

- Friday 4th March (EYFS)
- Friday 11th March (KS1)
- Friday 18th March (KS2)

Further information will follow when we return after half term.





## Events Planner - 2022

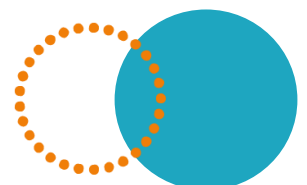
Date	Event
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	School Reopens to children - Spring 2
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	Parents Evening
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Parents Evening
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Class Photographs
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Enterprise week / job shop
May (TBC)	Fund Raising – Sponsored walk
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May	School Closed – Queen's Jubilee Holiday
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> June – Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Y6 Kingswood Residential
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Y3 & Y4 Fire Safety Talks
June (TBC)	Picnic
July (TBC)	Summer Fair
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Last day of Term

Additional wellbeing events will include hot chocolate, reading and chat time.

Further information will be sent out nearer to the time.

## Attendance Figures

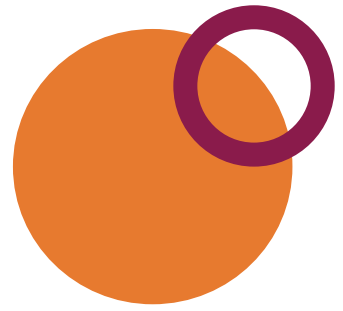
Class	Attendance %
Sheaf	91.1
Endcliffe	93.9
Norfolk	91.7
Crucible	95
Lyceum	91.4
Kelham	91.7
Weston	91.4
Millennium	91.4
Graves	92.3
Bolsover	94
Peveril	91.7
Shirebrook	91.7
<b>School Total</b>	<b>92.3</b>



# Class Round-Up

EYFS

FS1  
& 2



We have continued our focus on Traditional Tales this week by learning more about the story of 'The Gingerbread Man'. We have been learning to fluently read and write the caption 'Run run as fast as you can' as well as retelling and acting out the story.

We have been solving problems to make bridges for the Gingerbread man to cross the river so that he doesn't need to climb on the foxes back and using our prediction skills to decide what will happen to different objects when they go into the water. Next week we will be following a recipe to make gingerbread men and hoping that they won't run away before we get chance to eat them!

EYFS enjoyed 'Number Day' where we explored all that we knew about number 5. We sang songs, counted out 5 objects, looked at composition and doubling and watched our favourite episode of Numberblocks!



Ms. Peck & Mrs. Thomas

Year

1

In English we have been focusing on a new text called 'In the secret sky garden'. The children have been using their prior knowledge to make sensible predictions about what the story is going to be about. They have also been putting themselves in the shoes of the main character 'Funni' to think about how she is feeling at different parts of the story.

In Maths we have been focusing on the place value of numbers to 40! We have been making numbers to 40 using dienes and base ten resources, using number squares to find 1 more and 1 less than numbers to 40 and using our knowledge to solve missing number sequences.

In science we have been learning all about what plants and flowers need in order to grow. The children have had the opportunity to plant their own broad beans and they are now keeping a diary, observing how their beans develop and grow.

Miss Whitworth

## Year 1/2

As part of our Topic 'Who lives in the Forest' Endcliffe class have been on a school trip to Shirebrook Nature Reserve. The children were extremely enthusiastic and were able to use their knowledge of habitats and woodland animals to answer questions.



In English we have been writing a letter to our Environmental Council, about how we can help clean up our environment and stop people littering around our local area. The children are very passionate about the effect littering has on the world around them and have had some great class discussions about what they can do to help solve the problem.

In maths, Year 2 have continued to learn about 3D shapes and are becoming confident in naming the properties using mathematical language.

Year 1 have been using their knowledge of number bonds to 10 to identify patterns when finding number number bonds to 20.

This weeks Number Day was a great way to celebrate how numbers are special to us, many of us have a favorite number!

Mrs. Horsfall & Mrs. Allen

## Year 2

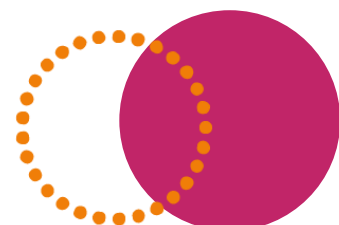
In Norfolk Class, we have enjoyed continuing with our learning on "Who lives in the forest?". We have continued exploring rainforests and have delved deeper into the human impact on the rainforest alongside deforestation. We also loved our visit to Shirebrook Valley on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February in which we explored the woodland area including habitats that can be found also finding out about the different animals that live in the woodland. We are going to now use our knowledge on the rainforest and the woodland to compare them.

In English, we were introduced to our new class story "The Secret Sky Garden" in which a little girl named Funni finds an old, derelict car park that she turns into a beautiful place and meets a new friend along the way. Together we have planned and will write a letter pretending to be Funni to our local environment council.

For Maths, we have been learning about 2D and 3D shapes. We have identified and named the shapes, described their properties alongside sorting and comparing them.

Keep up the hard work Norfolk!

Miss Wilson



## Year 3

In maths, we have finished our unit on fractions. The children worked hard learning to recognise fractions of shapes, find fractions of amounts and find equivalent fractions. The children have enjoyed using their knowledge and understanding for problem solving.

In English we have just begun our new writing sequence on instructions. Children are learning how to write instructions about how steel is made. In science children have studied forces and magnetism. Lots of children have produced some fantastic pieces of home learning linked to our topic.

Mrs. Roberts and Miss Gostelow

## Year 4

In Year 4, we have had yet another busy week and exciting week. The highlight must be our visit from the Sheffield Beekeepers Club. They talked to us all about bees and bee keeping as it links to our Habitats unit in Science. We then had the chance to ask questions, we found out so much! Did you know you will find around 50,000 bees in each beehive in the summer months.

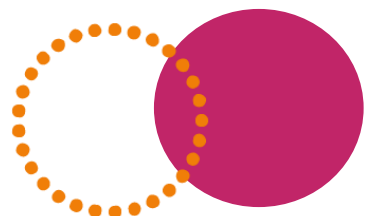


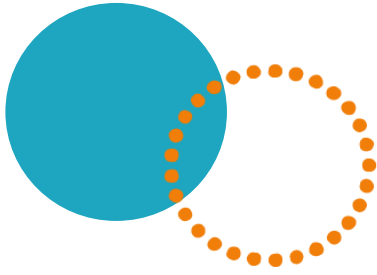
Our Blue Abyss topic has continued. We have been focusing on coral reefs and how these are formed. We found our coral is actually an animal even though it looks nothing like one! Our artwork has taken us to the stage where we are using pen and ink to draw sea creatures; next week we will be using clay to make some models!

In PE we are putting together a dance, it is coming on nicely and will film the final sequence for you to find on Showbie.

Enjoy a wonderful half term break.

Mr Jackson, Miss Landowski & Mrs. Powell-Ferguson





## Year 5

Within Year 5, we have recently completed our Biography unit of writing by publishing a biography on British astronaut Tim Peake. We are now writing a Sci-Fi narrative based around Cosmic by Frank Cottrell-Boyce. In Maths, we are continuing to learn about fraction. The children have been comparing, converting and finding equivalent fractions. Please encourage your children to further their learning through online Mathletics.com work from home.

Within topic lessons, children have been learning about how the

planets rotate and orbit around the sun. Please ask your children to recall what they have learnt within lessons to you at home - they really have learnt a lot!



Finally, a big thank you to all the invited children that have been attending booster classes on Mondays and Thursdays. They are really making a huge difference.

Mr. Walsh & Miss. Ambler

## Year 6

In Year 6, we have continued our fascinating work on the Ancient Maya since the beginning of this term. We have looked at the geography of Mesoamerica, the Maya's use of coca and their ingenious creation of a unique number system. In maths, we have been learning how to compare quantities using ratios and calculating percentages of amounts. In English, we have begun to utilise our research on Mexican beaded lizards to help us plan a narrative based on events in 'Holes'. After-school booster groups have been well attended allowing children to make targeted progress in maths and reading.

Reminders for next term:

Monday: Math's booster group 3:10-3:40

Wednesday: PE kits to be worn

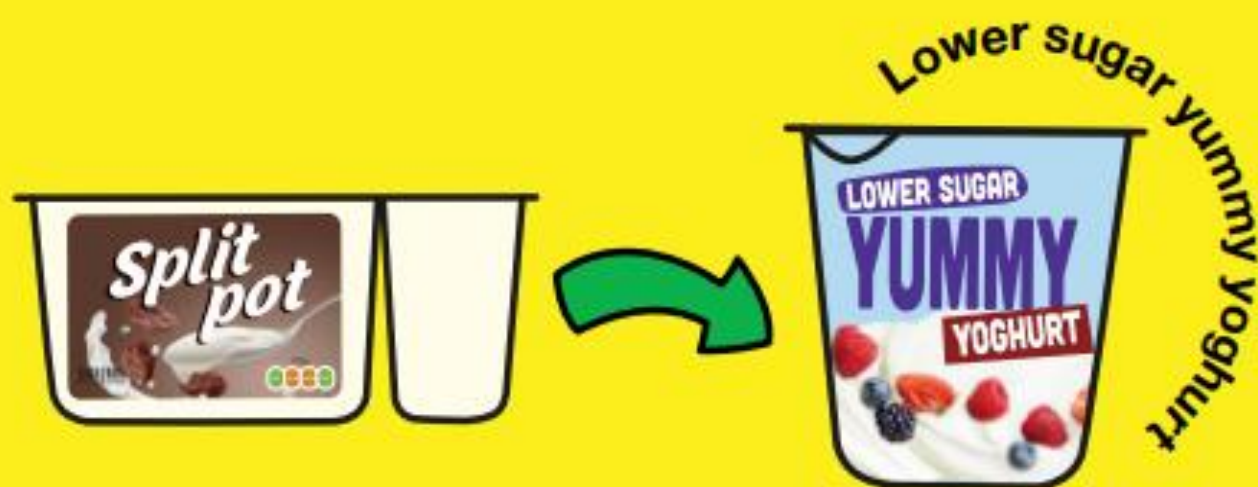
Thursday: Spelling homework due & reading booster group 3:10-3:40

Have a wonderful half term.

Mr. Litherland and Miss Harper



# Find healthier swaps for the whole family



## Just scan, swipe, swap

Now it's your turn to try!



**Better  
Health**

**Let's  
do this**

Download the **FREE**  
**NHS Food Scanner App**

# Be a Swap Rockstar!

1

**Scan** the barcode  
on your favourite foods

2

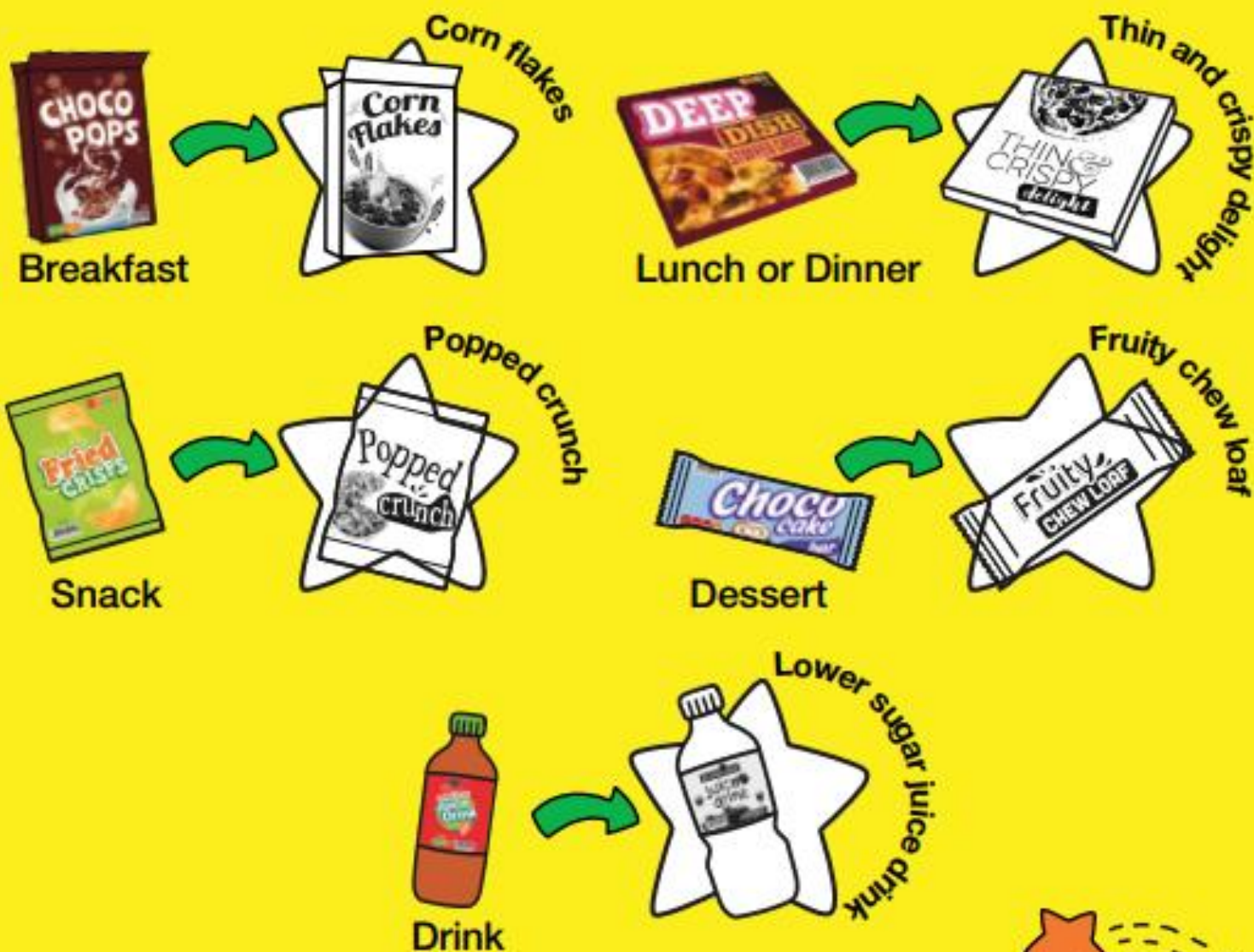
**Swipe** to see  
healthier choices

3

**Swap** next  
time you shop

## Can you make swaps?

Try colouring them in as you go\*



Name \_\_\_\_\_

 has made 5 swaps and is a Swap Rockstar

\*Crayons work best. If you use felt tips make sure you allow time to dry.



## Big Schools' Birdwatch

### How to take part

It's as easy as

# 1,2,3...

- 1.** Find the perfect spot to do your Big Schools' Birdwatch. It can help to put up some feeders a couple of weeks in advance. We've got some advice on making these at [www.rspb.org.uk/schoolswildchallenge](http://www.rspb.org.uk/schoolswildchallenge).
- 2.** Do your Birdwatch! Find a place where the children can watch the birds without disturbance, then encourage them to use our simple survey sheets to record what they see.
- 3.** Tell us your results. Complete the online form with your class ([rspb.org.uk/schoolswatch](http://rspb.org.uk/schoolswatch)) between 5 January – 21 February. This bit's really important, even if you don't see anything on the day. Once you've submitted your sightings, you'll see a graph breaking down your results, and you'll also receive an email with a downloadable certificate to print out for your class.

Once you've completed your Birdwatch and sent in your results, you can use this as one of your **Wild Challenge** activities. You'll find more ideas for taking part in the Wild Challenge award in this pack and online.

### Have fun birdwatching!




If you have any queries, please get in touch by emailing [education@rspb.org.uk](mailto:education@rspb.org.uk) or calling 01767 693680.



# Going for gold

The **Wild Challenge Award** is a suite of activities that you can use to enrich your curriculum while getting your pupils outside and learning through nature. The diagram below shows how the pathway to gold works and leaves space for you to map out your learning journey. **Big Schools' Birdwatch** counts as one activity towards any of the levels (you'll need to start at bronze if you're new to Wild Challenge). Also in this pack, we've included two more activities to help you get halfway to an award.

Register online at: [rspb.org.uk/schoolswildchallenge](http://rspb.org.uk/schoolswildchallenge)

Experience Nature		Help nature	
<input type="checkbox"/> Activity: .....		<input type="checkbox"/> Activity: .....	
<input type="checkbox"/> Activity: .....		<input type="checkbox"/> Activity: .....	
<input type="checkbox"/> Activity: .....		<input type="checkbox"/> Activity: .....	
↓			
 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <b>Bronze</b> </div>		Date achieved: .....	
<input type="checkbox"/> Activity: .....		<input type="checkbox"/> Activity: .....	
<input type="checkbox"/> Activity: .....		<input type="checkbox"/> Activity: .....	
<input type="checkbox"/> Activity: .....		<input type="checkbox"/> Activity: .....	
↓			
 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <b>Silver</b> </div>		Date achieved: .....	
<input type="checkbox"/> Activity: .....		<input type="checkbox"/> Activity: .....	
<input type="checkbox"/> Activity: .....		<input type="checkbox"/> Activity: .....	
<input type="checkbox"/> Activity: .....		<input type="checkbox"/> Activity: .....	
↓			
 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <b>Gold</b> </div>		Date achieved: .....	

If you have any queries about the **Wild Challenge**, please get in touch by emailing [education@rspb.org.uk](mailto:education@rspb.org.uk) or calling **01767 693680**.



# We're joining in with Big Schools' Birdwatch here...

## ...why not take part in Big Garden Birdwatch at home?

[rspb.org.uk/birdwatch](https://rspb.org.uk/birdwatch)

**Big  
Schools'**  
Birdwatch 2022

What will they see?

5 January - 21 February



# What did you see?

Can you find a way to make it easy for you to note down the highest number of each species that you **see together at the same time**? There is room below each bird's name for you to add your idea for doing this.

Your name .....



Woodpigeon



Blackbird



Carrion crow



House sparrow



Starling



Black-headed gull



Magpie



Blue tit



Robin



Feral pigeon



Great tit



Chaffinch

Did you notice anything in particular about the birds you saw? Differences in how they moved or what they were doing? Or perhaps you managed to see and identify a bird not shown here? If so, note these things in the space below or on a separate sheet. Don't forget you can get help from [rspb.org.uk/wildlife/birdidentifier](http://rspb.org.uk/wildlife/birdidentifier)

For more information, visit: [rspb.org.uk/schoolswatch](http://rspb.org.uk/schoolswatch)

The RSPB is a registered charity in England & Wales 207076,  
in Scotland SC037854. Drawings by Mike Langman. 327-0069 20-21



RSPB Wildlife Explorers  
and RSPB Phoenix  
are the junior and teenage  
memberships of the RSPB



# What did you see?

How many birds **of the same kind** did you see **at the same time**?



**House sparrow**

I saw




**Blackbird**

I saw




**Blue tit**

I saw




**Robin**

I saw




**Starling**

I saw




**Chaffinch**

I saw




**Woodpigeon**

I saw




**Magpie**

I saw


Your name .....

For more information, visit: [rspb.org.uk/schoolswatch](http://rspb.org.uk/schoolswatch)

The RSPB is a registered charity in England & Wales 207076, in Scotland SC037654.  
Drawings by Mike Langman. 327-0089-20-21



RSPB Wildlife Explorers  
is the junior membership  
of the RSPB.



## Woodpigeon

### Fact file

**Size:** 41cm **Weight:** 450g

**Habitats:** Farmland, woods, gardens and towns.

### On the menu

**Eaten by:** Sparrowhawks, peregrines, foxes and cats.

**Eats:** Mainly plants, such as cabbage and ivy, plus bird seed. It also eats insects and so is an omnivore.

**Where it feeds:** On the ground or on a bird table.

### Strange but true

When it is showing off to other woodpigeons, it claps its wings together above its back before gliding down steeply.

The RSPB is a registered charity in England & Wales 207076, in Scotland SC037864.  
Woodpigeon by Chris Gomeraal (rspb-images.com). 327-0089-20-21



## Blackbird

### Fact file

**Size:** 25cm **Weight:** 100g

**Habitats:** Woods, gardens, parks and farmland.

### On the menu

**Eaten by:** Kestrels, peregrines, sparrowhawks and cats.

**Eats:** Insects, worms, berries, fruit, and scraps from the kitchen such as cheese. It is an omnivore.

**Where it feeds:** On the ground or a bird table.

### Strange but true

It may be called a blackbird, but the females and young birds are brown.

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Blackbird by Ben Andrew (rspb-images.com). 327-0089-20-21



## Carrion crow

### Fact file

**Size:** 48cm **Weight:** 510g

**Habitats:** Farmland, woods, hills, towns and cities.

### On the menu

**Eaten by:** Goshawks and foxes.

**Eats:** Most things, including dead animals, birds, worms, mammals, insects, grain and fruit. It is an omnivore.

**Where it feeds:** On the ground, where it walks or hops.

### Strange but true

Crows are intelligent and can solve problems. In Japan, some crows place walnuts in front of cars at traffic lights. They eat the nuts after the cars have cracked the shells.

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Carrion crow by David Norton (rspb-images.com). 327-0089-20-21



## House sparrow

### Fact file

**Size:** 15cm **Weight:** 34g

**Habitats:** Gardens, parks, buildings, farms and towns.

### On the menu

**Eaten by:** Sparrowhawks and cats.

**Eats:** Adults eat seeds, grain and household scraps (herbivores). Chicks are fed insects and caterpillars (carnivores).

**Where it feeds:** Mainly on the ground or bird feeders.

### Strange but true

House sparrows have been introduced to every continent in the world, except Antarctica.

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House sparrow by Ray Kennedy (rspb-images.com). 327-0089-20-21





## Starling

### Fact file

**Size:** 21.5cm **Weight:** 78g

**Habitats:** Woods, grassland, farms and towns.

### On the menu

**Eaten by:** Sparrowhawks, goshawks, kestrels and peregrines.

**Eats:** Insects, spiders, worms, caterpillars, soft fruit, nuts and fat balls. It is an omnivore.

**Where it feeds:** On the ground or bird tables and feeders.

### Strange but true

Starlings can make lots of sounds, including whistles, quacking like a duck and making the noise of a barking dog or car alarm.

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Starling by Nick Upton (rspb-images.com). 327-0089-20-21



## Black-headed gull

### Fact file

**Size:** 35cm **Weight:** 280g

**Habitats:** Lakes, estuaries, farms, grassland and rubbish tips.

### On the menu

**Eaten by:** Peregrines, marsh harriers and foxes.

**Eats:** Insects, worms, slugs, sea creatures, small fish and bread. It is an omnivore.

**Where it feeds:** On the ground, often on grass.

### Strange but true

You might see it hopping quickly from one foot to the other.

This makes worms think it is raining, so they come to the surface and the gull can then eat them.

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Black-headed gull by Paul Sawyer (rspb-images.com). 327-0089-20-21



## Magpie

### Fact file

**Size:** 45cm **Weight:** 220g

**Habitats:** Woods, parks, gardens, farms, moors and towns.

### On the menu

**Eaten by:** Sparrowhawks, peregrines and foxes.

**Eats:** Most things, including insects, small mammals, young birds, fruit, berries and bird seed. It is an omnivore.

**Where it feeds:** On the ground or a bird table.

### Strange but true

Magpies will hide food when there is lots. They are very good at remembering where they have put it.

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Magpie by Graham Eaton (rspb-images.com). 327-0089-20-21



## Blue tit

### Fact file

**Size:** 11.5cm **Weight:** 11g

**Habitats:** Woods, parks, gardens, towns and cities.

### On the menu

**Eaten by:** Sparrowhawks and cats.

**Eats:** Insects, spiders, caterpillars, berries, nuts, sunflower seeds and kitchen scraps. It is an omnivore.

**Where it feeds:** In trees, on bird tables and bird feeders.

### Strange but true

Blue tit chicks can eat 100 caterpillars a day. To feed 10 chicks, adults need to find 1,000 caterpillars a day.

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Blue tit by Louise Greenhorn (rspb-images.com). 327-0089-20-21



## Robin

### Fact file

**Size:** 14cm **Weight:** 18g

**Habitats:** Woods, gardens, parks and farms.

### On the menu

**Eaten by:** Sparrowhawks and cats.

**Eats:** Insects, spiders, worms, fruits, and seeds, including bird seed and sunflower hearts. It is an omnivore.

**Where it feeds:** On the ground, bird tables and feeders.

### Strange but true

Robins nest in some unusual places. They have been known to nest in a teapot, an old boot, postboxes, flower pots and under the bonnet of a car.

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Robin by David Norton (rspb-images.com). 327-0089-20-21



## Feral pigeon

### Fact file

**Size:** 33cm **Weight:** 300g

**Habitats:** Towns and cities.

### On the menu

**Eaten by:** Peregrines, foxes and cats.

**Eats:** Grain, bread, bird seed and lots of other foods it finds in towns. It is an omnivore.

**Where it feeds:** On the ground, maybe in the playground.

### Strange but true

Feral pigeons can be pure white, almost black, grey, brown and lots of other colours.

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Feral pigeon by Malcolm Hunt (rspb-images.com). 327-0089-20-21



## Great tit

### Fact file

**Size:** 14cm **Weight:** 18g

**Habitats:** Woods, parks, gardens and farms.

### On the menu

**Eaten by:** Sparrowhawks.

**Eats:** Insects, caterpillars, fruits, seeds, nuts and kitchen scraps such as bread. It is an omnivore.

**Where it feeds:** On the ground, in trees and on feeders.

### Strange but true

Did you know a great tit's song sounds like: 'Teacher, teacher, teacher'? It's a bit like a squeaky bicycle pump too.

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Great tit by Gabrielle Mudge (rspb-images.com). 327-0089-20-21



## Chaffinch

### Fact file

**Size:** 14.5cm **Weight:** 24g

**Habitats:** Woods, parks, gardens and farms.

### On the menu

**Eaten by:** Sparrowhawks and cats.

**Eats:** Insects, caterpillars and seeds, including bird seed. It is an omnivore.

**Where it feeds:** On the ground.

### Strange but true

Lots of the chaffinches we see in the winter have flown across the sea from places such as Norway and Sweden.

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Chaffinch by Andrew Mason (rspb-images.com). 327-0089-20-21